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8 Golani soldiers injured in Hizbullah attack

DAVID RUDGE

EIGHT Golani Brigade soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in a Hizbullah ambush in the security zone yesterday.

The latest incident, following previous Hizbullah attacks close to the northern border in which five soldiers were killed and 14 wounded, heightened the prospect of a stern IDF response. Military sources quoted on Channel 1's news broadcast last night said the "safety catch" would be released.

The attack yesterday afternoon, on the Rehav-Aishiyeh road in the zone's northeastern sector, appears to have been a combined ambush and roadside bomb blast.

Reports from Lebanon said an explosive device was detonated alongside an IDF patrol and gunmen simultaneously opened fire with anti-tank weapons and machine guns.

According to Hizbullah's statement, the patrol consisted of several civilian cars and a military vehicle. Simultaneously, gunmen opened fire with Katyusha rockets and mortars at nearby IDF and South Lebanese Army positions.

The soldiers, including those who were not badly hurt, managed to get out of the vehicles and return fire. Reinforcements were sent to the scene and six wounded soldiers were evacuated by helicopters; two to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed and four to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where the condition of two was reported to be serious.

Dr. Zvi Ben-Isai, deputy director of the hospital, said all suffered from shrapnel injuries to their limbs and some had internal injuries.

IDF and SLA gunners blasted suspected Hizbullah targets in the area and north of the zone in response to the attack. There were no immediate reports of casualties among the attackers, although Hizbullah has lost four of its gunmen in fighting in the region in the past week.

The IDF has recorded over 100 incidents since the beginning of the year, including long-range attacks on positions and the recent, more sophisticated attacks.

The incident yesterday coincided with a general strike in Lebanon organized by the Amal Shi'ite movement to mark the 18th anniversary of the Litani Operation. Demonstrations were held throughout the country calling for an end to Israel's occupation of the zone. (Story, page 4)

A Hizbullah support group, meanwhile, launched a campaign to raise money for the organization's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, under the slogan "Buy a bullet for the resistance and the defenders of our homes and people."

Did you remember?

Clocks were moved ahead by one hour last night at midnight as Daylight Saving Time took effect.

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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
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Beersheba	6:25	7:24
Eilat	6:27	7:25



Clinton pledges \$100m. in anti-terror aid

DAVID MAKOVSKY

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton punctuated his morale-boosting solidarity trip to Israel at a time of terror by promising more than \$100 million in anti-terrorism assistance and an upgrade in intelligence cooperation.

Wherever he went yesterday, a visibly moved Clinton warmly held Israel's hand, and in symbol-laden appearances, demonstrated that the US stands at its side by urging it to keep pursuing a path of peace and security.

Clinton returned to the US last night, but Secretary of State Warren Christopher and CIA Director John Deutch stayed behind to flesh out components of the anti-terrorism and bolstered security package. Working-level meetings were held last night and more consultations are scheduled for today.

In an unprecedented appearance before the cabinet, Clinton unveiled his plans for bolstering aid to combat terrorism. After hearing a security overview from Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Clinton said he surmised that Shahak thinks Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is not doing enough.

According to a participant, Shahak responded, "He is doing things, but it is not enough."

Standing alongside Prime Minister Shimon Peres at a press conference afterward, Clinton declared the US would continue to fight terrorism. "Whatever effort it takes, whatever time it takes, we must say to them: You will be tracked down. You will be rooted out," he said.

He said the assistance program would include a comprehensive package of training and technical aid, advanced bomb-detection scanners and sniffers, a variety of X-ray systems, robots for handling suspect packages, and advanced thermal and radar sensors. Clinton said he already sent Congress a message asking for the assistance, half of which would come from this year's Pentagon budget and the other half next year.

This assistance comes on top of \$22 million in advanced bomb detection equipment provided earlier this month.

Clinton also said a decision had not yet been made on an overall framework for bolstered security cooperation. There is speculation this will be a prime topic in discussions Christopher and Deutch will be holding.

Clinton said any anti-terrorism assistance could not eliminate the prospects of terrorism in an open society, but it is very sensible to



President Bill Clinton waves to youngsters at the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts yesterday. To his right is youth representative Liat Moodric and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

seek to minimize those risks to the extent possible.

"Is it absolutely certain that nothing like that will ever happen again? No," Clinton said. "What we are trying to do is to reduce the risks, to reduce the likelihood of this to prevent more of these things from happening, to catch more of the wrongdoers."

While there is a growing consensus that the closure should not block food from reaching Palestinians in the territories, Clinton said that he strongly backs Israel's opposition to lifting the closure at this time.

He said Hamas is responsible for the closure, and asserted that it is the terrorists goal to bring about a closure, hoping misery will turn people against peace. "It's a deliberate attempt by them to make the Palestinians as miserable as possible," he said.

Saying Israel's first duty is to its

own citizens. Clinton stated, "If you have to choose anything over your continued existence, you will always choose your continued existence. Security will take preference. So these people are not stupid. They're doing this to provoke the reaction that they got. And we have to stand against them together."

Clinton said that he expected the Sharm e-Sheikh conference to produce genuine results. Participants committed themselves to hammering out conclusions in a working group over the next 30 days.

He said he did not meet privately with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and therefore there was no specific discussion about the Saudis curbing funds from their country would be transferred to Hamas. However, he voiced hope that the Saudis (Continued on Page 2)

Bush or Carter couldn't have done it

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton might be facing a tough election campaign back home, but he conquered Israel yesterday in a way that suggests he could waltz to victory here in May.

While judgment must be reserved on the substantive success of his anti-terrorism conference in Sharm e-Sheikh, one does not have to wait to realize that Clinton came across as someone who has an extraordinary reservoir of empathy for the people of Israel.

At the Sinai parley, Clinton told the assembled leaders, including those of 13 Arab states, that he wanted to personally make it clear that "Israel is not alone." This notion of solidarity was repeated throughout his visit, as he sought to boost Israel's morale.

His symbolic appearances, laced with gestures, radiated warmth and friendship, something one cannot imagine someone like George Bush or Jimmy Carter ever doing. He was tearful while holding Leah Rabin's hand as he stared at the gravestone of Yitzhak Rabin, then placed a stone from the White House on the grave. He also visited the graves of IDF soldiers, including Nahshon Wachsmann, and made an unprecedented appearance before the security cabinet. More than anything else, his

whom aides say Clinton looked up to as a figure of Churchillian dimensions.

As Leah Rabin put it: "In general, Americans have a certain openness. But, President Clinton has an extreme capability of being able to initiate a relationship."

Of course, there are interests at stake, namely Clinton's fear that the peace process could unravel before the US elections, something he apparently believes would be more likely if Shimon Peres is defeated.

Furthermore, there is no doubt, Clinton has had luck. Almost all of his predecessors were (Continued on Page 2)

Israel asks for US technology to establish separation line

BILL HUTMAN

ISRAEL has requested the US to supply much of the state-of-the-art technology needed to establish a "Demarcation Line" with the administered territories, according to American officials here, to work out the details of the support package promised by US President Bill Clinton.

A team of State Department anti-terror experts has been meeting in recent days with senior police officers to work out the details of exactly what equipment and know-how the US will provide to help Israel fight terror.

The US officials were sent here immediately after the attack at Dizengoff Center last week.

Sources involved in the talks said the main Israeli request has been for high-tech equipment, ranging from radar systems to bomb and explosive detection devices. The US offered help in training police anti-terror units,

but this was rejected, the sources said.

The equipment is virtually all earmarked for the so-called "Demarcation Line" - which largely follows the Green Line - that police have wanted to establish for over a year to prevent Palestinians from illegally infiltrating the country and to keep a close watch on those who enter legally.

A revised plan now being finalized by the police calls for the establishment of eight to 10 border crossings. Only a few kilometers of the more than 200-kilometer-long Demarcation Line will have fences. For the rest of the line, police will be relying heavily on the high-tech equipment from the US to keep infiltrators out.

"The Israelis want equipment for their Demarcation Line with the Palestinians," an American

Yatom likely next Mossad chief

DAVID MAKOVSKY

MAJ.-GEN. Danny Yatom is a main candidate to head the Mossad, senior sources confirmed.

On the way to the Sharm e-Sheikh conference on Wednesday, Peres told reporters he had already appointed someone to succeed "S", who is becoming director of the Maccabi Health Fund.

Yatom has served as military aide to Peres and Yitzhak Rabin for the last four years. He also has served two stints as OC Central Command.

Yatom is known not just for his discretion, but also his bureaucratic skills. Under Rabin, he gradually centralized all peace process issues - not only the security-related - in the Prime Minister's Office.

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President Bill Clinton and Leah Rabin stand in silence at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin yesterday on Mt. Herzl. (Ariel Jeronolinski)

Clinton, Rabin family visit 'haver's' grave

AS the rain fell on Yitzhak Rabin's newly unveiled tombstone at Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem yesterday, members of the Rabin family gathered in front of the grave: his daughter Dalia, with a bouquet of roses, his son Yuval, and grandchildren Noa and Yonatan. Behind them, under the tall trees, stood US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, and other senior officials. Inside a giant plastic tent were the security officers overseeing the safety of the VIPs.

BATSHEVA TSUR

Bill Clinton had requested that not a sound be uttered, and even the Israeli media people turned off their beepers and cellular phones.

Slowly, they approached the grave from the path below - Leah Rabin, carrying red roses, flanked by Clinton and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Clinton paused to talk in whispers with the family. Then he lifted a wreath of red, white, and blue flowers and laid it on the grave. On a red ribbon across the

wreath was written, in Hebrew and English, the phrase he coined and which has come to symbolize feelings for Rabin: "Shalom, haver."

Alongside, Leah Rabin placed her roses on the black-and-white marble tombstone designed by architect Moshe Safdie.

Clinton stood for a long minute with bowed head, squeezing Rabin's hand, then took her arm and gently led her to where the rest of the family stood.

Dalia and Noa added their roses, and the family and family friend dispersed in silence.

Clinton's aid to Israel slammed

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

HOUSE Foreign Operations Subcommittee chairman Sonny Callahan (Republican, Alabama) attacked President Bill Clinton's announcement of a new \$100 million anti-terrorism package to Israel.

Asked to comment on the matter, Callahan said Clinton "isn't the only one who wants to see a lasting peace in the Middle East. However, I'm uncomfortable, at this time, committing another \$100 million until we have a better understanding [of] how they're going to pay for this."

Callahan, whose committee oversees foreign aid, said he would have "no problem" with Clinton simply taking the funds from the more than \$5 billion already allocated to Egypt and Israel.

"But if he expects us to continue coming up with all this money that he goes out and promises, then let me tell you, I'm not excited about it one bit," he said. "And if he's going to ask for a tax increase to pay for this, or if he wants to increase the deficit to do it, then I don't see any way I can support his request."

But Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Arlen Specter

(Republican, Pennsylvania) said yesterday that he supports Clinton's pledge of \$100 million to upgrade Israel's anti-terrorism capabilities.

"I think it's a realistic amount to appropriate. We're currently spending \$5.1 billion between Egypt and Israel anyway," Specter said in an interview, referring to their economic and military assistance packages. "If we can really get a hold of terrorism in the Middle East, \$100 million would be a bargain."

Specter - who also sits on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over foreign assistance - said he would not favor allocating additional funds to the Palestinian Authority for upgrading intelligence capabilities.

He also said Congress would have to "find an offset" account from which to take the money Clinton pledged.

Several Republicans in Congress criticized Clinton last month for pledging to upgrade F-16 fighters for Jordan without seeking congressional advice and

approval. Last year Callahan held up Jordan's debt relief.

Specter met with CIA director John Deutch on Tuesday as Deutch was leaving with Clinton for Sharm e-Sheikh to discuss the administration's efforts.

Specter said he is "all for" American intelligence sharing with the PA, provided it's "selectively and carefully done," but said the US should not allocate more funds to the PA beyond the \$500 million in assistance it pledged in 1993.

"Let's see them earn that first. Pardon me for just being a little strident on that point," he said. "I'm not ready to give them any more money until they've earned what we've committed."

Meanwhile, late last night Congress passed, by 229-191, a stripped-down version of an anti-terrorism bill that was presented after last April's Oklahoma City bombing.

Amendments approved on Wednesday removed provisions allowing the deportation of for-

ities based on secret evidence and forbidding fundraising in the US by terrorist organizations. Other changes were supported by both right-wing and civil liberties groups, fearing an infringement of individual freedoms.

However, Congressman Charles Schumer said a strong anti-terrorism bill is needed.

"This bill does not trample our rights," the New York Democrat said. "Terrorists are raising money in this country today. We must act. We need a hard, cold, balanced response to terrorism."

Schumer released a videotape of meetings held in several US cities where speakers from Islamic groups urged violence against Israel and asked for money to help Palestinians.

"The United States has become a safe haven for Hamas and other terrorist groups to raise money. These videos are graphic proof that Hamas and other militant groups are raising money and organizing extensively in this country," he said.

AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, supported the original legislation and released a statement yesterday saying it was "deeply disappointed" by the amended bill.

IDF continues crackdown on Hamas

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE army arrested 29 Hamas and Islamic Jihad suspects in wide-ranging sweeps throughout Judea and Samaria yesterday, bringing to over 300 the number taken in since the crackdown began.

Five of the suspects were apprehended in Akabe, near Jenin, and eight others in half a dozen in villages surrounding Ramallah, an army officer said. He said 17 of the arrests were in the Hebron region, 10 in the Arab refugee camp, and the rest in Beit Omar.

Ha'aretz, meanwhile, reported that Israel has captured and is interrogating two Palestinian youths who planned to carry out suicide bombings. The report said they were captured near Hebron last Monday and had explosives rigged for the attacks and other equipment in their possession. They told their interrogators they were only waiting for the signal to strike.

If true, it would be the first time suicide bombers were apprehended with the actual bombs. Previously, Israel has only succeeded in capturing Palestinians who had expressed willingness to commit a suicide attack.

The army refused to comment on the report. A military source said details of the arrest operation in the Hebron area are being heavily suppressed.

But another officer involved in the sweeps said the story was probably not true, since the level of arrests did not include those involved in Hamas on that level.

IDF eases closure

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE army is to lift the internal closure in Judea and Samaria for 12 hours starting at 6 a.m. today, allowing Palestinians to move from village to village in order to work and stock up on supplies, an official said.

Palestinians will still be barred from entering Israel, and the closure will be reimposed tonight, said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Coordinator for Government Activity in the Territories.

Israel is also considering a number of steps to ease the closure, which has kept some two million Palestinians under virtual blockade.

Security officials are to meet over the weekend to examine the possibility of lifting the closure for good if security for Israelis can be ensured, Dror said.

Israel also intends to gradually allow food and produce to be allowed into Gaza, Judea and Samaria, followed by allowing produce, and later clothing, to be exported from the Palestinian-ruled areas.

This easing of restrictions would culminate with allowing Palestinian laborers to return to their jobs in Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peres higher in polls after Clinton visit

Polls yesterday showed this week's international anti-terrorism summit and a visit to Israel by US President Bill Clinton may have given Prime Minister Shimon Peres a much-needed popularity boost.

A Channel 1 television survey showed Peres had regained a slight lead over Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu; up by 47 to 45 percent. A similar poll by Channel 2 showed Peres leading 51 to 47 percent. Neither poll gave a margin of error or the sample size. AP

Arab League encourages peace process

Arab foreign ministers yesterday urged Israel to resume negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians. In a statement issued after their semiannual meeting at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, the ministers also accused Israel of procrastinating in following through on its peace pledges to the Palestinians.

"We urge the two cosponsors [the US and Russia] to intervene with Israel to avoid delay in its talks with Syria and to end its occupation of the Golan," the statement said. The ministers also criticized Israel for sealing the territories after the bombings, terming the act "collective punishment." AP

Man killed in road accident

David Malik, 60, of Haifa, was killed yesterday morning when his motor scooter was hit by a car near the Cave of Elijah the Prophet. Two passengers in the car were lightly injured. Itm

CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1)

would do their share in combating terrorism.

Clinton also expressed optimism that European would get tougher toward Iran, since Teheran is "committed to supporting these terrorist activities and glorifying them."

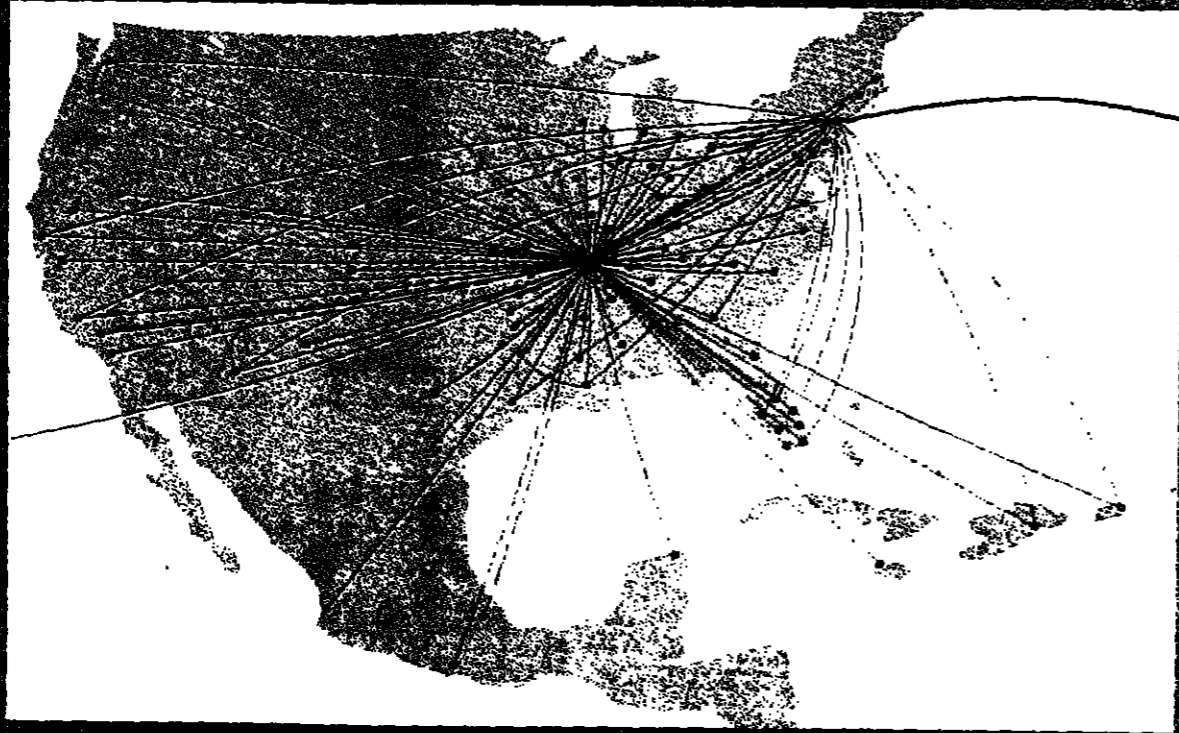
In thinly-veiled criticism of Europe's current lax approach in dealing with Iran, Clinton said, "Every country in the world that deals with them is going to have to just wake up in the morning, look in the mirror, and decide whether they're going to stay with the policy they have or change it."

BUSH

(Continued from Page 1)

faced with an Israel whose peace policies were - in different degrees - at odds with those of the US; but in Rabin, Clinton found a partner rather than an antagonist, and this has helped ensure the honeymoon of the last few years.

But these broader issues did not seem to matter yesterday. Clinton told one teenager, who asked him how to be a leader; that one must feel empathy for the needs of others. Regarding Israel, he clearly takes his own advice.



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DON'T MISS:
American Outlook; comments by Alan Dershowitz, Martin Peretz, Evans and Novak and other leading American columnists; and favorite comics: Peanuts, B.C., Feiffer, Calvin and Hobbes.

DON'T MISS IT!



Clinton heeds plea from Olmert, visits Jerusalem high school

BILL HUTMAN

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton made an unscheduled stop yesterday to light memorial candles and meet pupils at the Jerusalem high school that lost four graduates in the recent Hamas terror attacks.

"We don't want the children to grow up in terror, but in a land that is both free and safe," Clinton said upon his arrival at the Beit Hinech High School in the Katamon neighborhood, where he was met by cheering pupils.

The meeting came after heavy coaxing from Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was up in arms over Clinton's not having scheduled an event in the capital, hardest hit in the recent wave of bombings, to memorialize those killed in terror attacks.

US officials said Israel requested such an event be held in Tel Aviv and not Jerusalem for security reasons. Police confirmed that they asked for the event to be held in Tel Aviv, due to the threat of an attack in Jerusalem.

But Clinton, after meeting Olmert at his hotel in the morning, decided to change his plans and visit the school. "The mayor pointed out to me this school, what had happened here, and that it was on my way," Clinton said.

"I just asked them to rearrange my schedule," Clinton told reporters at Beit Hinech, where security was extremely tight. Most of the pupils were forced to remain in their classrooms, and only watch from the windows as the president came and went.

Clinton met with a handful of pupils at the school's entrance next to a memorial for the fallen in terror attacks and wars. He lit four candles, in memory of Yoni Baram, Yoni Levy, Merav Natan, and Moshe Reuven, killed in the two recent suicide bombings in the city.

"Thank you for coming here," one pupil said. "I hope you are respected president," said another.

The visit, also attended by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Olmert, lasted about 15 minutes.

"There are some things that you can just request, and there are things that you must demand," said Olmert, who had threatened to boycott the Clinton visit because the president did not schedule a stop at a city school or terror bombing site.

Clinton's decision came too late for Olmert to change his order on Tuesday forbidding official Jerusalem school participation in the Tel Aviv meeting between Clinton and pupils, because Clinton was not making a similar stop in Jerusalem, according to city officials.

In their meeting, Olmert also offered municipal aid in expediting the move of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Clinton made no indication he would take Olmert up on the offer, according to the officials.

Meanwhile, traffic ground to a halt in much of Jerusalem while Clinton was in the city.



US President Bill Clinton meets with Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

Clinton to Netanyahu: I will work with whomever Israeli electorate chooses

SARAH HONIG

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton promised yesterday his administration will work with whomever the Israeli electorate votes for.

He made his comment after meeting with Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu for half an hour. The meeting was described as warm and friendly by Netanyahu's aides.

Clinton defined America's part in the Mideast peace process as a "facilitating role," and said the actual agreements must be hammered out by the parties, as opposed to the US imposing solutions upon them.

Clinton welcomed his visit here, and said that should he be elected, his government will continue the peace process, "but from a different direction and with different emphases. Recent atrocities in Israel have made people cynical, but they must not lose hope for peace. Yet peace must be sought realistically. Terror must be combated everywhere, and the IDF must not be prevented of entering any area needed to safeguard Israeli civilians."

Netanyahu stressed that he does not propose reoccupying Gaza, but that he will insist on freedom of action for Israel everywhere. He urged tangible sanctions against nations which foster and abet terrorism, and argued that the PLO's Yasser Arafat is not doing nearly enough at his end.

Accompanying Netanyahu to the visit was his spokesman, Shai Bazak, and Dr. Dore Gold, of Tel Aviv University's Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies. On the American side, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Mark Paris, who is responsible for Near East affairs in the National Security Council, and US Ambassador in Israel Martin Indyk took part.

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ISRAEL

A stripped down version of the plan that will cost just over NIS 200 million to implement has nearly been finalized, according to the sources. But the government has had trouble finding funding even for the new plan, despite its stated commitment to carry it out, the sources said.

The sources confirmed their aim is to use the American aid to establish the Demarcation Line, which has long been held up because of lack of funding. The original plan presented over a year ago carried a price tag of over NIS 500 million.

Next week, Border Police Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, who heads the police committee on implementation of the demarcation plan, is slated to present it to Hefetz. Sources said the US aid will likely be the major factor in the plan finally being realized.

Senior police sources said they were impressed by the openness and willingness of the US to help in a wide range of anti-terror operations. However, in operational areas, such as with the Yamam, there is little if anything the Americans can contribute, the sources said.

Young Israelis love Clinton

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE youngsters of Israel enveloped US President Bill Clinton with love yesterday. Young people from schools all over the country crowded into the huge auditorium of Tel Aviv's Mishkan Ha'manuot arts center and waited for more than two hours for the American president.

"We want to tell him that the young in Israel love people like Clinton who, although they are terribly busy and terribly important, take the time to come and tell us that they are on our side," one boy said.

Clinton spoke to them of the destiny of the Jewish people, of Yitzhak Rabin, and of the great period of change in which we are living, "the greatest since the Industrial Revolution 100 years ago." But most of all, he spoke of the future and the next generation's place in it.

Clinton told the youths that Israel is not alone, that America stands with them and supports them. He promised that the conference in Sharm e-Sheikh will not end in words alone and reiterated Washington's commitment to fight with Israel against terrorism.

He called on them not to abandon hope in the face of adversity and to fight to fulfill their dream for a better future.

Clinton, who was presented by Peres as "a man who is trying to change the future from blood to hope," seemed to enchant the thousand or so young people in the audience.

"We know that overcoming adversity is the genius of the Jewish people and the history of the State of Israel," Clinton told them. "No nation on earth knows [better] that the path of trial often passes through tragedy."

"No people knows better, through millennia of exile and persecution, inquisition and pogroms, and the ultimate evil of the Holocaust, that you must deny victory to oppressors, that you must flourish - indeed flourish, not just endure - against all odds."

Peres, who spoke before Clinton, was received with a storm of applause in a standing ovation. He spoke of the joint Israel-US efforts "to turn a region of hatred, fighting, suspicion, and cynicism into a region of understanding and hope."

"Thirty of the world's leaders, among them 13 leaders of Arab states, sat there [in the Sharm e-Sheikh conference]," Peres said. "Clinton rose and said, not in Israel before Jews, but on Egyptian soil, 'My heart is with the people of Israel, with the suffering they are going through.' I never saw anything like it. I saw before me a new world."

The national anthems, songs, and speeches over, Clinton rose to leave. But hearing that four pupils had prepared questions, he decided to stay to answer them, though he was already behind schedule.

Clinton calls boys injured in TA attack

THE hospital where 16-year-old Tal Loel is recovering from last week's Tel Aviv bomb blast was not on President Bill Clinton's itinerary yesterday.

So Loel invited himself to the White House instead. "I'm sorry I couldn't come by to see you," Clinton told the excited teenager in a six-minute telephone call yesterday afternoon to Ichilov Hospital, where Loel and his best friend Uri Tal are being treated in the plastic surgery unit.

"We would be happy to visit you in the White House when we get better," proposed Loel, who was badly burned on his stomach, arm, and leg.

"You will be most welcome," Clinton responded. "We would love to see you there."

The presidential phone call came about after the two teens sent a telegram to Clinton, asking him to come see them at the hospital during his 24-hour visit to Israel. Clinton, however, had been advised against making a hospital visit for security reasons.

"As victims of terrorism, the reason for your visit in the Middle East, we also believe that peace is the only true solution for this area," the boys said in the telegram.

"We wish to strength [sic] yours and Mr. Peres's hands." Tal, whose eardrums were injured in the blast, did not speak to Clinton. Clinton spoke to his mother, Esther, instead. (AP)

Then, signaled by his security men that he really must leave, he walked up to the two children's choirs on the stage and shook hands with those in the front row, from the Ethiopian Shiva choir, which had sung "The Way to Jerusalem."

Clinton then walked into the rows of choir members and stood smiling widely - giving them a photo-opportunity with the US president.

Still, he lingered, waving again and again to the cheering youngsters. A sea of hands waved back, until he walked away and disappeared from view.

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A fig leaf named Clinton can't cover Peres's tragic mistake of relying on Arafat for Israel's security.

It was Arafat who prevented the extradition of Ahmad Abu Warda, the dispatcher of human bombs, by means of a lightning mock-trial. It was Arafat who smuggled in terrorists and explosives. It was Arafat who ordered a 21-gun salute in honor of the "Engineer." It was Arafat, the deceitful and corrupt Godfather of Terrorism, who starred with Peres at the farcical "International Counter-Terrorism Conference!!"

Citizens of Israel: The Peres-Arafat "WAR Against Terrorism" is a hoax. The arrests are a mere bluff. Closure is no solution but a deceitful diversion. The only way Peres "fights" Arab terrorism is with speeches at showy international conferences.

Shimon Peres: In Heaven's Name, RESIGN!!
 But until you do, stop the Oslo Madness before it is too late.

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Shaath threatens armed conflict if peace fails

PALESTINIAN Authority Planning Minister and leading negotiator Nabil Shaath has threatened a return to the "armed struggle" if Israel does not yield to Palestinian demands. Shaath, known as a political moderate and dedicated advocate of the Oslo process, was speaking at a recent Nablus symposium televised by Palestinian television.

A videotape of the program was released yesterday by the Institute for Peace Education, the organization which first exposed tapes of belligerent speeches by Yasser Arafat. In it, Shaath is seen making the following remarks:

"If the negotiations reach a dead

Jerusalem Post Staff

end, we shall go back to the struggle and strife, as we did for 40 years. It is not beyond our capabilities...

"As long as Israel goes forward [with the process], there are no problems, which is why we observe the agreements of peace and non-violence. But if and when Israel will say, 'That's it, we won't talk about Jerusalem, we won't return refugees, we won't dismantle settlements, and we won't retreat from borders,' then all the acts of violence will return."

"Except that this time we'll have 30,000 armed Palestinian

soldiers who will operate in areas in which we have unprecedented elements of freedom."

Speaking in similar terms, Fatah secretary and Arafat spokesman Marwan Barghout told the London newspaper *The Independent* on Tuesday that the Palestinian security forces have been ordered to fire on Israeli soldiers if they try to enter territory under the PA's control.

"They have already received their orders," he said.

He also said that the Palestinians possess much more weaponry than the agreement allows and that their armed forces are much larger than advertised.



US President Bill Clinton gestures as he chats with Prime Minister Shimon Peres at yesterday's special summit. Also talking to them are Foreign Minister Ehud Barak (left) and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Lebanon protests Israeli presence

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon shut down yesterday in a protest called by the country's top Shiite politician against Israel's occupation of the security zone.

Schools, shops, businesses, and government offices closed for the 18th anniversary of Israel's first invasion of Lebanon in the year 1978.

In Beirut, many Lebanese wore yellow ribbons and flew yellow ribbons on their cars to mark the Day of Solidarity with occupied south Lebanon, which totals 11

percent of the country.

In Beirut, Hizbullah cars toured streets, decked with yellow ribbons. They carried loudspeakers blaring resistance hymns and boxes on their hoods to collect contributions.

The strike, called by parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, was widely observed, even in Christian areas which fear Hizbullah's Islamic militancy. Lebanon's Maronite Christian bishops issued a statement expressing solidarity with the South and concern at the con-

tinued fighting.

The government complained in a statement that the world is doing nothing to stop or condemn Israeli "terrorism and violent acts" against south Lebanon, while holding the Sharm e-Sheikh summit in response to acts of violence against Israel.

"They were sorry because we did not attend the summit, but they never felt sorry over Lebanon's continued destruction," President Elias Hrawi was quoted as saying.

Turkish president: Patience needed for peace

GAZA CITY (AP) - Israel and the Palestinians must be patient and have more confidence in each other if the peace process is to succeed, Turkey's president said yesterday.

"The peace process comes after some 45 years of fighting," President Suleyman Demirel said at a news conference after meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza. "Both sides should be patient."

Demirel, making his first visit to Gaza, said Turkey is ready to help the Palestinians develop their econo-

my and to increase trade with them.

Arafat said he discussed with Demirel the difficulties the Palestinians face as a result of the 19-day closure on the West Bank and Gaza.

The closure is creating "very terrible and very difficult circumstances and a very sad atmosphere, and has given a very good platform for those who are against peace," Arafat said.

"No doubt it is affecting the peace process negatively, because it is a collective punishment," he added.

A SURVEY of Palestinian residents of Samaria shows that 76 percent of respondents support the continuation of terrorist attacks in areas occupied by Israel and in areas where there are settlers. The survey was conducted by Nablus's An-Najah University student council and its results were published in Wednesday's *An-Nahar* newspaper in Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported.

More than 84% expressed opposition to steps taken by the Palestinian Police against Hamas and 86% said there is no difference between right and left in Israel regarding the Palestinian issue.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Poll: Most Palestinians support terror

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States offered a reward of up to \$2 million on Wednesday for information leading to the capture of a Palestinian hijacker of the Achille Lauro cruise ship who escaped from prison in Italy.

In a sign of the high priority Washington is assigning to the case in which American Leon Klinghoffer was murdered, the State Department announced it was also prepared to resettle informants and their families in the United States.

Spokesman Glyn Davies said the US offer was separate from an unspecified reward offered on Wednesday by the Italian government for information on the escaped hijacker, Magied Molqi.

Molqi, who was serving a 30-year sentence for the 1985 hijack, failed to return to jail in Rome on February 28 after 12 days' parole for good behavior. The US government has told Italy of its indignation that he was allowed out of prison.

Molqi was found primarily responsible for the murder of Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American Jew who was shot and dumped overboard. Molqi's escape has caused outrage in the US and

US offers \$2 million for Achille Lauro hijacker

embarrassed the Rome government.

Davies said Molqi "should be considered armed and dangerous," and anyone with information on him should contact the nearest US Embassy, or consulate or the US government in Washington.

The State Department promised "complete confidentiality" to informants. "If appropriate, the US government will even relocate people and their families to the US," Davies said.

He said Washington had told the Italian government of its offer. Earlier, Italy's Interior Ministry said it was ready to offer a "substantial reward" for information.

Davies said Washington was awaiting the results of Italy's investigation into how Molqi obtained a furlough, but was pleased with steps the Italians had taken "and the understanding they've expressed of our initial tough reaction."

Of four Palestinians originally convicted in Italy of the Achille Lauro hijacking off the coast of Egypt, only one is still in prison. One was paroled in 1991 and another disappeared the same year while on prison leave.

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As a result of the clocks having been moved forward, the Nitzana crossing point will be now be operating **Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., effective Sunday, March 17, 1996.**

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Bomber's driver petitions court

SAID Suleimani, suspected of transporting the Dizengoff bomber to Tel Aviv, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the General Security Service's refusal to let him meet with his lawyer. Suleimani has already petitioned the court once on this issue and been turned down, after the court was convinced that allowing him to see a lawyer would interfere with the investigation and damage state security. He again petitioned the court because the ban on meetings was extended on Monday for a second week.

Evelyn Gordon

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The research summaries must be submitted no later than May 30, 1996. The Tshetshik Prize Committee will inform all applicants by July 1, 1996, whether or not their proposal conforms with the by-laws of the Prize.

The Prize ceremony will take place in March-April 1997 at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. Submissions should be sent to the following address:

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Prime Minister Shimon Peres shakes Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim al-Iryani's hand, while Russian President Boris Yeltsin looks on, at the anti-terrorism summit on Wednesday.

Peres: Syrian talks must go on

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he wants to keep the door open for further peace talks with Syria, despite its conspicuous absence from the Sharm e-Sheikh conference.

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies does not call today, like Iran does, for the destruction of Israel.

er, that while providing safe haven for these groups, Syria itself has not sponsored a terrorist act for years.

"We don't want to close all the doors," Peres told reporters at a joint news conference with US President Bill Clinton. "We should clearly make it known that we cannot support terrorist headquarters in Damascus or elsewhere. But at the same time, we should continue the peace effort."

Clinton agreed that the Syrians' absence from the conference was "a mistake," but said he was not surprised.

Speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Shara also said he feels the summit's final communique was "unbalanced."

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said Israel expects "a clear condemnation from Syria" of the recent suicide bombings. He said talks would resume "when conditions allow."

US and Israeli officials say Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups have offices in Damascus. The annual report on terrorism worldwide says, however,

"We understand its sensitivity," Shara said of the bombings in Israel. "And we said that Syria has repeatedly condemned killing the innocent and made a distinction between fighting occupation and killing the innocent."

Arab press: The only summit winner was Israel

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Arab press yesterday gave mixed interpretations of the results of the Sharm e-Sheikh summit, but many editorials agreed Israel was poised to benefit most.

ing the conference everything they wanted, from guaranteeing their security to guaranteeing the trial of those who want to liberate their land from the impurity of the Israeli occupation," he said.

they were helped by grave mistakes committed by those who do not draw the line between resistance and terror.

Euro parliament calls for terrorist crackdown

STRASBOURG, France (Reuters) - THE European Parliament yesterday protested Iran's policy of financially supporting terror and called on all countries to pressure Iran into stopping that support.

Hamas Islamic fundamentalist bomb attacks killed 58 people in Israel.

11 million for hijacker

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France to sign \$16 million Palestinian aid pact

PARIS (Reuters) - France will grant the Palestinian Authority 80 million francs (\$16 million) to develop the port of Gaza and launch water purification projects, French officials said yesterday.

Track work disrupts train service today

DUE to work on the track, train service will be disrupted today.

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OPINION

THE JERUSALEM POST

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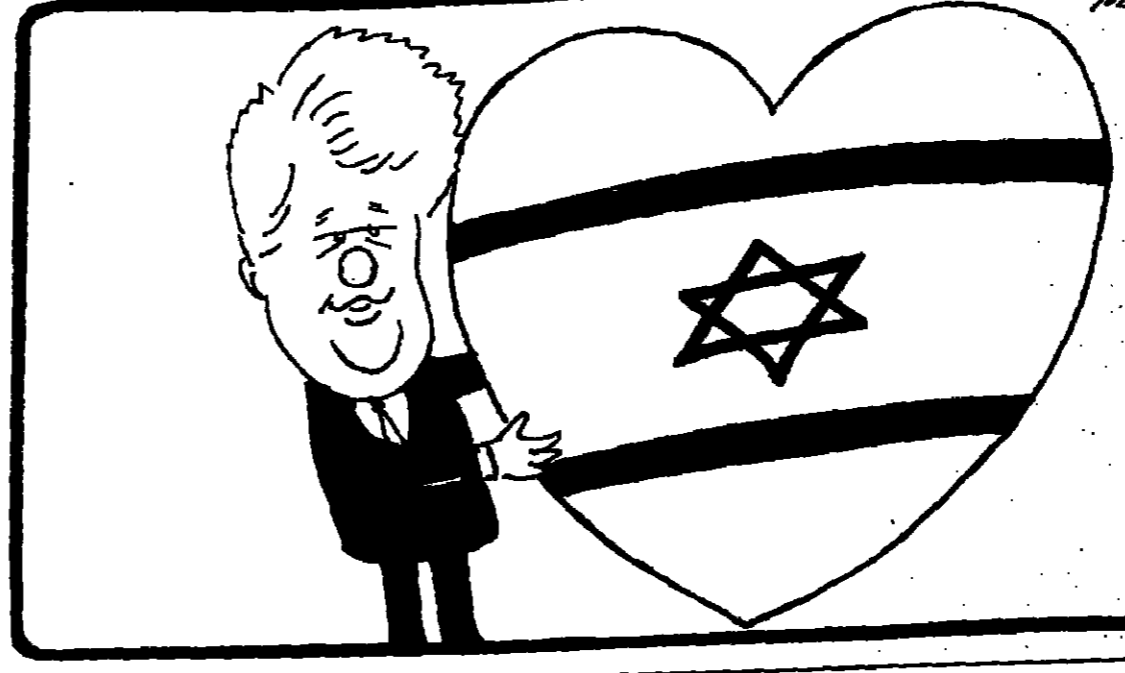
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The Shaath tape

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres's standard response to critics of the Oslo accord, reiterated several times in recent days, is disarmingly simple and seemingly incontrovertible. True, he says, the Islamic groups still practice terrorism; but they are a small minority. What the Oslo agreement has achieved is the disavowal of terrorism on the part of a majority of the Palestinian people. The PLO, representing this majority, has decisively switched from violence to negotiations.

observers, including Military Intelligence officers, also minimized the importance of these speeches. Delivered at large rallies, they were aimed at preempting the radicals with tough talk. They do not reflect Palestinian policies, said the experts.



The Syrian terror umbrella

WHAT brought 28 presidents, kings, premiers and foreign ministers to the conference in Sharm e-Sheikh this week? Was it the four Hamas suicide bombers who struck earlier in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv?

other bomb-detecting equipment. But not all leaders at the conference were shaken to the same extent. Some saw the parley as an opportunity to try to "save" Arafat and proclaim their financial support for the PA, acting as though the authority wasn't providing a haven for the terrorists, and as though Gaza isn't the base from which Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been launching terror against Israel.

tried to put across... that terrorism must be fought wherever it arises. The US and Israel rejected the operative part of the Syrian-Russian-Saudi proposal for reconvening Madrid. But the impression one gains from American-Israeli talks in Jerusalem is... Washington pleading with Israel to get the talks with Syria going again.

negotiations with Syria now could point Arafat to a path contrary to the Sharm e-Sheikh formula

negotiations after terrorist strikes elsewhere. They came chiefly to persuade Israel to carry on with the peace process - in other words, to continue the withdrawal.

Some people are trying to persuade us that talks could help bring Hizbullah terrorism to an end. But after Syria's refusal to condemn terrorism, a resumption of negotiations on our part would surely send the wrong signal to Palestinian terrorists.

Bravi Weizman, Olmert

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's short visit to Israel yesterday was one of the most genuine and warm gestures ever made by an American president to the people of Israel. It is impossible to doubt the sincerity and genuineness of the feelings he expressed during his meetings with high school pupils and speaking on the phone to a wounded victim of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

But the Palestinian objections prevailed. As PA planning minister Nabil Shaath told the Jerusalem Arabic daily A-Nahar yesterday, according to the Oslo agreement all of Jerusalem is negotiable. And the Palestinians have no intention of limiting their claims to the eastern part of the city.

The end result: Oslo or Bosnia?

Even his political enemies might have spared a pang of empathy for Shimon Peres last Monday night when his strained face on television reflected the magnitude of the pressures imploding upon him after four successive suicide bombings.

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH was a blunt reminder to Palestinians hanging out bunting for a state-in-the-making that they are a long way from independence, and that they will not get there while Israelis are being blown up.

something to lose. Those are prerequisites for stability. Israel will in the end have to accept the Palestinians' desire for statehood, and the Palestinians will have to accept that Israel will not live alongside a state that spawns terror.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE Sir, - As a lifelong Labor supporter, Teddy Kollek presumably believes what he said in "Put real Jerusalem issues before silly slogans" (March 8).

HERE TO STAY Sir, - I'm sure I speak for many if not all Israelis when I take strong exception to Sidney Zion's assertion (op-ed piece, March 10) that "...if people can't walk on the streets of Tel Aviv, it's over for Israel."

POSTSCRIPT

HERLINDA ESTRADA signed her husband's death certificate and joined other grieving family members in a hospital. Then her husband walked in.

TURNED OFF

Sir, - I am a Likud voter. However, two images that appeared on the news have turned me off: (1) Rafael Eitan parading through downtown Hebron brandishing a gun; (2) Dov Shilansky, in a jovial mood (while the whole country is still mourning), presenting a JNF certificate to the yeshiva student who shot dead the then still-unconfirmed Arab-American who ran into a crowd of Israelis in the French Hill suburb of Jerusalem.

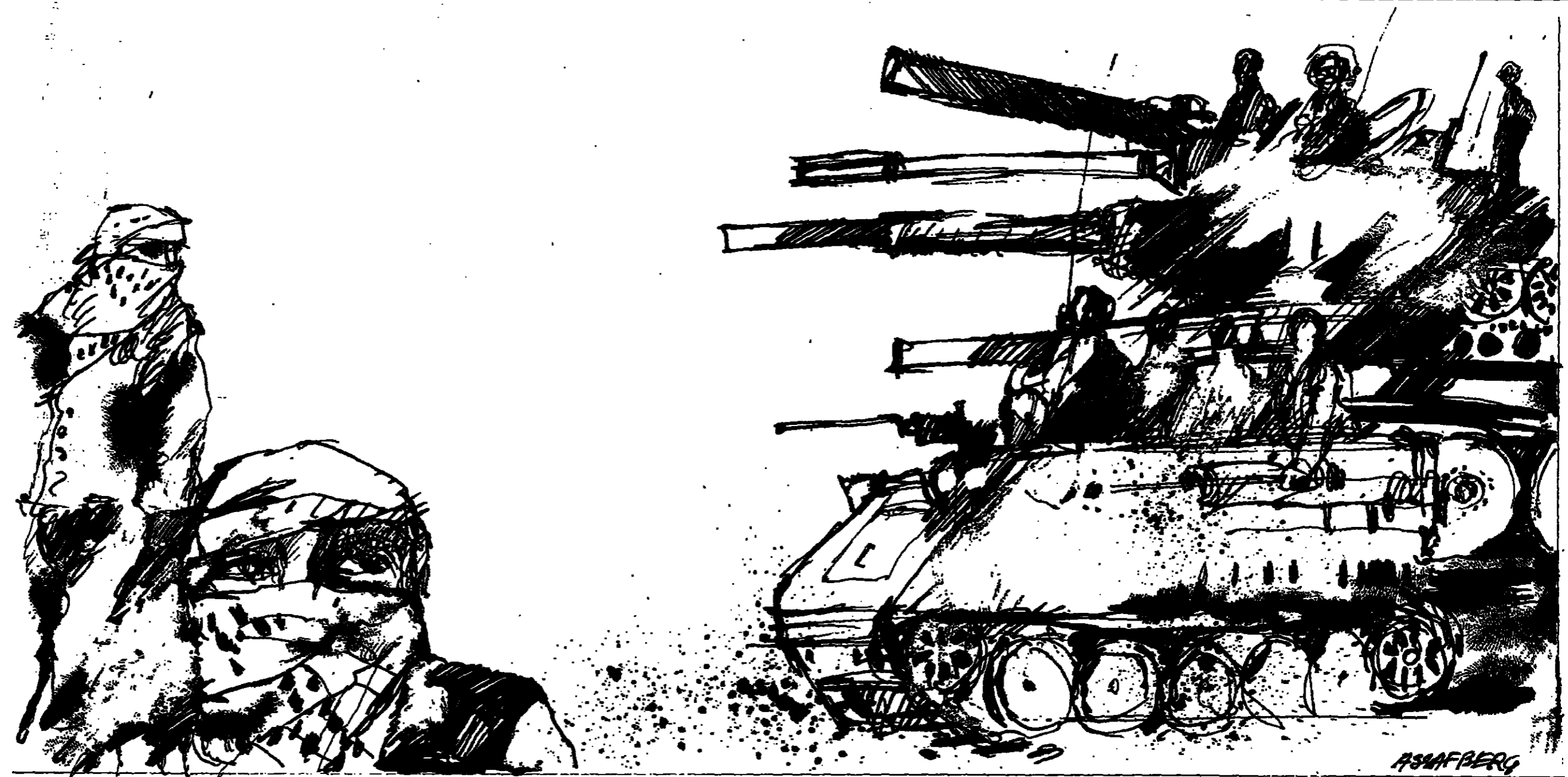
THE WRITER

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. His views do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Terrorist attack kills 7 in Bahrain

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, March 15, 1996



The war against Hamas: How far can we go?

AFTER the carnage of the recent suicide bombings there were those who wanted to see columns of tanks rolling into Gaza and battalions of crack infantry units blowing up Arab houses, with or without the terrorists hiding in them.

Outside the heavily guarded Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv, just hours after the Dizengoff suicide bombing, a seething crowd demonstrated and shouted "We want war!" and "We want revenge!" At least one placard advocated "The Final Solution" for Hamas.

Inside, Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared an "all-out war" against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and announced the formation of an anti-terrorism task force to be headed by the newly appointed head of the General Security Service, Ami Ayalon, with sweeping powers to consolidate Israel's response.

But how can an open, civilized nation such as Israel grapple with the dilemma posed by terrorists who place little value on their own lives and won't play by our rules? How far can the country let this war take it without bending the rules of the democratic society which the IDF purports to reflect?

If the country's leaders have declared a war, then are they going to unleash the might of the IDF war machine?

"If you use your imagination," said one senior officer, "anything is possible: from leveling refugee camps with artillery fire to napalming the countryside. The only thing holding us back is our decision to abide by a peace agree-

The peace agreement, political considerations and basic Jewish values limit the military options, reports Defense Correspondent Arie O'Sullivan

ment. That, and our consciences."

After the Dizengoff attack, former defense minister Ariel Sharon called for Israel to take back control of the territories handed over to the Palestinians and to deport the extended families of the suicide bombers. Others, like Yizhak Mordechai, a former major-general and current Likud candidate for the Knesset, went further, saying that refugee camps should be sealed off.

There was even talk of evacuating and bulldozing whole villages which supported Hamas terrorists.

In their declaration of war against the Islamic militants, Israeli leaders and senior generals hinted that military action would have no bounds.

"Militarily there is no problem in returning to Gaza, to bomb it from the air, rain artillery on it. But there is a limit even in a declared war," said one senior field commander.

"If we came upon a house where a terrorist is hiding we would have no problem wiping it out with a missile," said another top officer.

"But we won't shell refugee camps. We won't erase villages. The army hasn't done that for 45 years. Even in war, the IDF can't put its humanity aside."

BUT FOR the moment, Israel, with the Middle East's most advanced military - and some of its most sophisticated intelligence - gadgets, seems powerless, frustrated and impotent to stop Islamic fundamentalist terror.

Those responsible for combating Hamas terrorists say their efforts have been thwarted because the intelligence-gathering capability was gutted after Israel handed Gaza and Palestinian areas of Judea and Samaria over to the PLO.

In what would better be described as a police action, the army has so far responded by rounding up some low-level Hamas figures and hauling in a few weapons and some inflammatory material. And mosques are no longer off-limits to military searches.

Furthermore, for the first time since the intifada waned in 1993, the army has blown up the home of at least one suspected terrorist and sealed the homes of nine others and their families. It intends to blow them up too, but is waiting for the High Court of Justice to clear the way after the resident families petitioned against the demolitions.

"We cannot go beyond the law," said OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Itan Biran. "But on the other hand, Israel has the ability to make the laws," he said, implying that the decision on the method of combating terrorism lies at the government's feet.

Biran and other senior officers have hinted that Israel's long secu-

and should not let anything, including peace agreements, bind its hands now.

"For much less than these terrible terrorist bombings we, in the past, were ready to penetrate into foreign countries, like Syria and Lebanon and the then-Jordanian-occupied Judea and Samaria, and the Egyptian-ruled Gaza Strip," he said. "So today, can Jericho or Gaza or Ramallah serve as a shelter for terrorist activity?"

"Obviously not. If we need to penetrate these territories, carry out actions there and then get out, then we ought to do it. We don't have to have any strings on our hands. You don't declare war without waging it," he added.

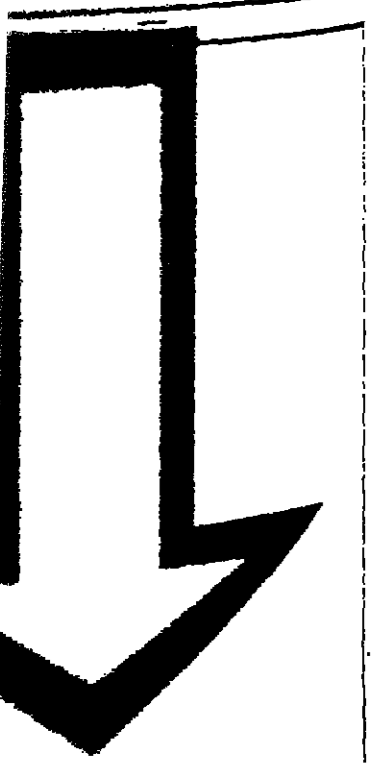
When three Soviets were seized as hostages in Beirut in October 1985, Russian agents apprehended a relative of the terrorists who belonged to the Islamic Liberation Organization, a coalition of extremist Moslem clergymen.

They castrated the relative and sent him home with a warning to release the Soviets immediately. They did.

This sort of barbarism, Ben-Elissar said, could never be adopted by the Jewish state.

"We are not going to change our moral standards or our Jewish norms and values," he said. But he added, "Neither is there going to be any life for the enemies of life. That is all."

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FEATURES

'Don't fight people who are fighting terror'

The PA is doing the most against terror, Nabil Shaath tells Michael Widlanski in Sharm e-Sheikh

TERROR has raised its ugly head, and the Palestinian Authority (PA) is doing "more than it can" to stop it, which is more than can be said for Israel, the US and Iran, according to PA planning minister Nabil Shaath.

In an interview Wednesday outside the Sharm e-Sheikh summit headquarters, Shaath not only defended the PA but assailed Israel for not stopping terror and imposing collective punishment on the Palestinians.

"If you fight the people who are fighting terror, then you are in trouble," said Shaath, asserting that Israel was doing itself a disservice by attacking the PA and the PLO.

"The PA is doing more than any government can do to stop terror," said Shaath, the jocular adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the man who handled much of the negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

"You can't catch a suicide bomber, but we are catching the people who send the bombers," he said.

Shaath had no comment when asked about a statement on the PA's Voice of Palestine (VOP) last May 5 by PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Melein justifying the

retention of weapons by members of Hamas, responsible for four recent bomb attacks that killed 60 people.

He broke his silence, however, when asked whether VOP radio broadcasts and PBC (Palestinian Broadcast Corporation) commentaries urging the immediate establishment of a Palestinian state "as the only solution to terror" were attempts by the PA to exploit the Hamas attacks.

"This is a baseless Israeli charge. It is not fair," he said.

Asked about VOP's opening broadcasts on February 28 in which it said Izzadin Kassam denied any connection to the attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, and also asserted, quoting "official sources," the bombings were the work of Moleed MK Rehavam Ze'evi "and the Israeli extreme right-wing organization Eyal," his response was fierce.

"This is all based on the selective collection of texts and quotes," said Shaath.

Shaath was also asked if the PA was really doing anything to capture and try leading Hamas planners such as Mohammed Deif, who according to Israeli intelligence met several times in recent months with PA Gaza



Nabil Shaath: "The PA is doing more than any government can do to stop terror."

security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

"The Israelis had many months to capture Deif, and did they succeed in doing it?" he answered.

Regarding PA efforts to stop transfer of arms and money to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Shaath said, "We all have to do more - all the world's countries - to stop

money from reaching Hamas. For example, the United States. Half the money that comes to Hamas is from the United States."

The PA minister said Iran was a great force behind Islamic terror, but brushed aside the notion that Syria, which allows Hamas and Jihad offices in Damascus, could do more to stop terrorism.

Both Shaath and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), a member of the PLO executive committee, said they were pleased with the summit, but indicated they would only be sure once they could see tangible "fruit" for the Palestinians - increased aid and an end to the closure of the territories.

Egypt's hospitable

ASIDE from the decision to support the summit, the Egyptian government has been hospitable to the Israeli delegation while reports of Egyptian officials' denials of any involvement in the terror attacks are being reported.

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Fear-vs-commitment dilemma hits Israel student programs

IN the aftermath of the recent terror attacks, in which two American youths were prominent among the victims, travel plans seem to be the new litmus test of devotion to Israel. Fear and parental pressure vie against Israel in a complicated, emotional equation.

A number of students at the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and the Jerusalem program of the Jewish Theological Seminary have returned to the States, while others are debating whether they will study overseas next year.

"A rabbinical student in our class was killed, so it's much closer to home," said Mitchell Malkus of Chicago. He was referring to Matthew Eisenfeld, a fellow second-year rabbinical student at the seminary's Jerusalem campus who was among the casualties of the Jerusalem bus bombing on February 25. "On the other hand, we are strong supporters of Israel, and in leaving a lot of us feel we would be abandoning Israel."

"We are going to be leaders of the Jewish community. If I am going to speak authoritatively

from a pulpit about the value of aliyah, well, I couldn't do that so well if I came home [because of the terror]," Malkus said.

At the seminary's main campus in New York, first-year rabbinical student Ben Begleiter has not yet decided if he will join his class, which is scheduled to study in Israel next year.

"I very much want to be in Israel next year, but I cannot do that without a sense of safety," said Begleiter, 24. "I want to plan it if I am going, thinking there's always the possibility that I won't go at the last minute, or that I'll go and then come right back."

His parents are leaving the decision up to him. "They are probably no more concerned about Israel than the fact that I am studying in New York," said Begleiter, of Kansas City. "I'm living a block away from Harlem."

At the seminary and other institutions, teachers and officials stress that those youths who return to or stay in the US should not feel ashamed. They echoed the senti-

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

ment of Rabbi William Lebeau, dean of the seminary's rabbinical school, who said: "Those who leave [Israel] are no less brave and no less committed to Israel."

But that message doesn't seem to be filtering down to many youths. Some students say they hesitate to express their anxiety for fear their friends will think less of them, even while they question how their apprehension affects their commitment to Israel.

"When everyone is standing in the hall acting so tough and saying, 'now we must go,' I stand there and don't say anything," said one young woman at a New Jersey Orthodox school who refused to be identified. "You think I'm really going to say I'd rather go to college here and be safe? I am sure a lot of them feel like me, but who's going to say it?"

ON THE other hand, the terror incidents have fortified the intentions of Hillel Moskowitz, a senior at the Frisch School in Paramus, New Jersey, which has lost two graduates - Sara Duker, class of 1991, and Alisha Flatow, class of 1992 - to terror attacks in Israel in the past year.

Moskowitz was originally single-minded. He was simply planning to study next year at Bar-Ilan University. Now, however, he has a dual purpose: to study and to send a message of support. "Not going sends a negative message," he said.

At offices servicing Israel academic and summer programs, organizers say it is too soon to tell what the impact of the terror attacks will be. These programs are currently entering the height of the registration season.

"There's no question there will be fewer people who want to go," said Michal Drori, of the Student and University Department of the World Zionist Organization in New York.

The decline will be hard to measure, because there is no way to calculate those people who decide against making the initial call for information. For example, Monday is usually a busy day for the toll-free hotline for Israel summer programs. The day of the Tel Aviv bombing, no one called, Drori said.

It's a time of anxiety and soul-searching for many who facilitate Israel study programs and who encourage parents to send their children to Israel.

"I've had a pit in my stomach all week," said Jennifer Ely, assistant dean for overseas programs at Brandeis University.

This appears to be especially true for congregational rabbis, who promote Israel programs, then make arrangements for small numbers of youths with whom they have personal relationships.

Only a few weeks ago, Carol Davidson, the rabbi of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in Beacon, New York, was delighted because a 15-year-old girl who had not expressed any interest in Jewish programs was suddenly excited about spending a high-school semester in Israel next year. But since the terror attacks, Davidson said, "It's nerve-racking. I feel an incredible sense of responsibility."

"Granted, I could take a synagogue group to Ellis Island and we could all fall into the river and drown. It could happen, but..." she said, her voice trailing off.

"This student still wants to go to Israel. And I'd still say 'go.' But do I feel differently about it? Yes."

Foreign students stand firm

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE recent terrorist attacks have increased the determination of some foreign students to be here.

"Every incident like this causes me on the one hand to cry, and on the other hand to decide that I belong in Israel," Sara Stress, a youth-movement member in Los Angeles, wrote to the local Jewish Agency emissary the day after the Tel Aviv bombing.

There are currently more than 1,000 students, under the aegis of the Jewish Agency, attending six- to 12-month programs such as the Institute for Training Leaders from Abroad; the year course of Young Judea; and the Conservative movement's Netiv course. And not one has decided to go home.

"The parents are very worried, particularly those of children from Australia and South Africa who recently arrived here," says Shlomo Gravez, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Youth and Hehalutz Department. "They have been calling our emissaries in their home towns and we get a lot of reports of parents wanting the children to go back. But so far not one student has decided to return."

Gravez says that a number of steps have been taken to give the students a feeling of safety. "We know every minute where they are. They do not leave any of the institutes where they are studying without the permission of the security officer at that place. At present, we use very little public transport. We have rented our own buses."

A hotline connecting the students with their homes has been operated after every attack, to allay the parents' fears without delay, Gravez says. And the students' free days have been kept to a minimum so that they do not wander around the country alone. They have also been provided



with support services, he says.

"We have sent letters to all the emissaries and the students [asking them] to demonstrate solidarity," he says. "Sixteen Netiv graduates are expected here this week to express their support. Prospective students, parents and emissaries with questions can call us 24 hours a day at (02) 208537 during work hours and at (02) 256205 from 6 p.m.

"About 7,500 [16- to 18-year-olds] usually come for summer programs. We hope that when things return to normal we will reach those numbers."

"So far, the emissaries are optimistic. In Detroit, out of 240 registered, only two have so far canceled; in Canada - five or six out of several hundred. But registration has frozen since the attacks.

Only 250 new students have registered in the US and this is the season when they usually sign up.

Meanwhile, 400 short-term emissaries will go to the US this summer to work with the under-16s - double last year's figure.

"For the first time, there is an indication of maturity in the Jewish world," Gravez says. "It indicates a positive change in the Diaspora's attitude towards Israel."

He would like to see more students taking the attitude of Zuki Alec from Los Angeles, who said last week: "I am the last descendant of my family which was destroyed in the Holocaust and every incident like this stirs me on to express my Jewishness and my obligation to Israel loudly and clearly to everyone. Am Yisrael Hai."

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Antiterror Inc.: The 'A' Team arrives

American men and materiel have been airlifted to Israel, putting President Clinton's war on terror to work. Bill Hutman reports

BOB, a US government antiterror expert, was awakened in his Washington home by a late-night phone call last week, less than 24 hours after a Hamas suicide bomber killed 13 people outside Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv.

ATA was founded in 1983 to provide assistance "to friendly foreign countries facing a significant terrorist threat."

The office aims are "enhancing the antiterrorism skills of foreign police, law enforcement, and security officials... [and] providing a vehicle for continued contact and dialogue between US and foreign security officials."

Antiterror experts from other branches of the US defense establishment have also arrived here since the Dizengoff attack, including from the army and Central Intelligence Agency.

US sources say each "team" sent here serves a different security purpose: US Army officers work with the IDF, CIA staff with the Mossad and ATA experts with the police and the GSS. The overall aim is to cover the gambit of antiterror operations.

The ATA mission is straightforward: listen to senior Israeli security officials about their needs in the war on terror and make constructive suggestions. A shopping list of requests is to be brought back to the US, probably early next week, and senior

officials will decide how much to allocate.

ALL INDICATIONS from US and Israeli officials is that the Clinton administration will make good on its promise to help in the war against Hamas, and Israel will get much of what it is requesting. No estimate was available, however, on the total cost.

The Americans have held dozens of meetings with senior Police, Border Police and GSS officials. They have also visited training installations, including of the elite police antiterror unit, and conducted field tours to see firsthand what is needed.

"The Israelis are experts in many areas that they don't really need our help in," Bob says. "Take the elite police antiterror unit. They're among the best in

the world. We can learn a lot from them.

"We listen to the Israelis, sometimes make suggestions, but in the end it's up to them what means they choose to fight terror," he says.

Bob is not new to Israel's war on terror. He says he has been here a dozen times. "John" was on a three-year stint here that ended in 1992. He served as a senior security officer at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The two are also not new to fighting terror. They both served as US intelligence and counterterrorism agents in Lebanon in the early 1980s. John was wounded in the Beirut US Embassy bombing in 1983, in which over 200 Americans were killed.

"It was chaos in Beirut," John recalls. "We didn't know who was fighting who. There were so

many militias it was impossible to keep track of them all."

"You can't compare the situation there with here at all," he says. "There may have been car bombings in both places, but other than that, you're talking about two completely different situations."

Between them, Bob and John have done security work on virtually every continent, being assigned from Columbia to Northern Ireland to the Philippines. They said they had seen a lot of bloodshed in terror's wake and in the battles lost, and won, to stop it.

"I DON'T recall any situation like the one Israel faces today," Bob says. "Israel wants to fight terror, to build a separation line, but it also wants open borders. This will make fighting terror difficult.

"Israel could simply build a 'Berlin Wall' along its borders. But it doesn't want that. It wants to fight terrorism and at the same time keep open, democratic relations with the Palestinian Authority."

"There are technologies that can be employed to control a border," he says, "but they are not 100 percent foolproof."

The major request police have given the Americans is for high-tech equipment to use along the seam between Israel proper and the territories - roughly following the Green Line - and which the government has vowed to strengthen to prevent Palestinians from entering illegally.

Police want everything from radar equipment to more of the explosive detection devices the Clinton administration airlifted here last week to implement the separation plan, first proposed over a year ago by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

The high-tech equipment needed for the separation plan to work carries a high price tag. That is one reason the Treasury blocked the plan when it was first pro-

posed. Now, ministry sources said, US help in acquiring the equipment will allow the plan to move forward.

Israel also wants Washington to provide explosives-detecting Labrador retrievers, considered the best in the world. Even before the recent terror wave, the US provided several such dogs to police.

"They are virtually 100 percent successful," Bob said.

Police will need the dogs and technology the US is offering, he added. "In my assessment, Israel is in store for more terror attacks. All the signs point in that direction," he said. There are also concerns that US sites in the country will be targeted by Hamas.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz revealed that Hamas planned an attack during the Clinton visit and that Israel even warned US security officials against planning events during the visit that would leave the president open to attack.

"We have clearly put ourselves on the line," Bob said. "We are identified as 'helping the Zionist enemy,' which makes us a target also."

The man with the grisly task of identifying terror victims

Jay Levinson deals with the sensitive procedure of examining human remains, Jennifer Friedlin writes



Dr. Levinson in the dissection room in Abu Kabir's Forensic Institute. "At least I can say, after an incident, I've done something," he says.

FOLLOWING every suicide bombing, eyewitness accounts of body parts strewn along the streets fill the morning's papers. While most readers can barely stomach imagining the destruction done to human bodies, Jay Levinson has spent the past 11 years analyzing every detail of victims' corpses.

As victim identification officer for the Israel Police, it's Levinson's job to take all the pre- and post-death evidence he can collect and identify the bodies of those killed in terrorist bombings.

"I'm there at the critical point of confrontation with the body," said Levinson, 46, a New Jersey native with a PhD in Nabatean Aramaic and an avid stamp collector.

In 1981, Levinson left his job as a document examiner in the CIA, and moved to Israel. He joined the police force shortly after his arrival and began working for the division of victim identification (DVI) in 1985.

Now, instead of examining documents, he must deal with the sensitive procedure of examining human remains.

"At the time a family comes to look at a body, it's all pressure and agony, but I want [the procedure] to be right."

In order to ensure that the procedure goes smoothly, every step up until the point at which a family member or friend identifies the body must be meticulously executed.

Upon hearing that a terrorist has struck, Levinson goes immediately to police headquarters, gets a briefing on the attack and then drives out to the Jaffa-based state morgue, the L. Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine, known as Abu Kabir.

Approximately two to four hours after the attack - timing depends on the attack's distance from the morgue - the bodies and their severed parts start to

arrive. As the medical staff at Abu Kabir starts fitting them together, using DNA analysis and other scientific methodology, the police identification squad of some dozen people begins to collect postmortem information on the corpse to match it with pre-death information the family will give.

"Let's say a person has a moustache, so what?" said Levinson, noting that the commonness of moustaches and beards here makes such characteristics invaluable. "However, let's say a person has a tattoo on the ankle; now we're talking of something gaining in importance."

Fingerprints are collected and dentists are on hand to take teeth imprints. As families and friends who suspect that their loved ones may have perished in the attack start entering the facility, the police ask them about any distinguishing marks. If need be, dentists' records are ordered and police go to the suspected victim's home to collect fingerprints.

Only after fingerprints, a genetic profile, a listing of identifying marks and dental evidence have been gathered - a process that can take several hours - and the police are as certain as they can be that the victim has been identified is the family called in for personal identification.

"We have never made a mistake and we don't intend to," Levinson said.

ON THE way out to Abu Kabir several days after the Dizengoff Center bombing, Levinson, who lectures internationally on victim identification, explained that the turning point for the DVI, which was established in 1985, came following the 1989 terrorist attack on bus 405. In that attack a terrorist took the wheel of the bus and overturned it into a ravine off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, killing 16 people.

When the division was set up, the police thought they would deal only with wartime disasters, and the army - which is responsible for identifying soldiers following a military incident - would deal with attacks on civilians. But, as Levinson explained, after the 405 attack the police realized the army was not equipped to deal with civilian atrocities.

"In the army, every soldier has an identification file," he said. "When a tank is sent out the officers know exactly who is in the tank. When Egged sends out a bus, no one knows who's on the bus."

Under the direction of Dr. Yosef Almog, director of identification and forensic science, Elie Shmeltzer, chief superintendent of the field assistance group, and Levinson, the DVI has been institutionalizing a professional system for dealing with victim identification quickly and efficiently.

On a normal day, the morgue, previously the home of an Arab

sheikh, is a quiet place. Inside the small building, doctors and technicians work on corpses of those whose death is criminally suspicious. In the dark basement, five metal tables sit in three dark, sterile rooms - where a heavy smell of disinfectant and death hangs in the air.

As soon as an attack occurs, this quiet place erupts in activity. The staff of 40 quadruples, with volunteers, dentists and support staff descending on the area. Ambulances come racing down the street bringing in bodies and remains for evaluation. Concerned relatives, who have exhausted the possibility that their missing family member is not in any hospital, arrive at the morgue often hysterical with worry that their worst fears will be confirmed.

Over the years, those involved in victim identification have learned how to control the chaos and infuse the identification service with as much sensitivity as possible. Instead of taking family

members in to see the body, they are escorted by a rabbi, paramedic, social worker and police officer into a room with a video monitor that shows a picture of the deceased.

And, after realizing the basement space they had for questioning relatives meant the families would inevitably see victims' bodies, the police and the morgue's staff decided to use the Health Ministry's office next door for all interviews.

The recent wave of attacks has also triggered the awareness that police and morgue staff must always be ready. After the first bus 18 attack, the staff was lax about getting the place back into working order, said Yona Tenenbaum, Abu Kabir's administrative director. When the second bus 18 was hit, the doctors arrived and could not find their lab coats.

As a result, Tenenbaum said, there is now a special emergency closet constantly stocked with basic equipment.

ALTHOUGH the job of working with mangled, burnt and severed corpses would be unpalatable to most, Levinson said it has its rewards. "At least I can say, after an incident, I've done something."

That desire to do something has led this Orthodox father of eight to travel the world in pursuit of perfecting victim identification tactics.

Following the 1988 terrorist attack on a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, Levinson, then still a novice in the field, flew to the site to learn how squads there identified victims.

Last year, following the terrorist bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Levinson, who is also chairman of the International Police's victim identification committee, brought a Spanish version of the questionnaire to help local authorities take information from the families.

And after a 1993 plane crash in Nepal, Levinson met with the wives of two Israeli victims, took physical measurements and then flew to Nepal.

Although the victims' bodies were never found, Levinson worked to confirm via airline reservations and check-in records that these men were on the plane. He then asked local authorities to certify that under no circum-

stances could the men have survived. Levinson went through such lengths because he wanted the women to be able to carry on with their lives.

"For the sake of [preventing] a woman from becoming an *aguna* [a woman not allowed to remarry under Halacha], I had to get proof no one on the airplane could have survived the crash," Levinson said.

"As a religious Jew, I feel there's an obligation to do everything in coordination with Halacha. It's the job of the police to serve the public."

Although many of the families Levinson works with want to stay in touch with him, he said his presence is a constant, disturbing reminder of a traumatic period. For their sake, he cuts all contact with the families after the work is done.

As for keeping up his own morale, Levinson said he would not let a terrorist attack or the horrors he has seen keep him from going about his daily life.

But Levinson, who had white paint stains on his arms, admitted that following the recent spate of terrorist attacks and days and nights spent at Abu Kabir, he took a few days off for the mundane chore of housepainting.

"Sometimes you just want your biggest concern to be 'does the color take to the walls?'"

NEW

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by Aviva Bar-Am and Yisrael Shalem

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Friday, March 15, 1996

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Taxi/...

'Evening Standard': Israelis are terrorists

IF a prize were to be given for the crudest and most transparent piece of disinformation...

As Palestinian police today arrested at least 25 Hamas extremists in the Gaza strip...

Yerushalayim of an interview with Avishai Ravid...

And they brought the Tabernacle unto Moses...

Make a start; the rest will follow

they strive. I strive and receive reward, and they strive and do not receive reward...

The top-of-the-page story, whose four-line headline reads "Israeli terrorists (sic) accused of bombing..."

The connection with the Rabin assassination makes the intended impression clearer...

And they brought the Tabernacle unto Moses, the Tent and all its furniture...

Make a start; the rest will follow

they strive. I strive and receive reward, and they strive and do not receive reward...

they strive. I strive and receive reward, and they strive and do not receive reward...

Of shameless 'candor' Make a start; the rest will follow

Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last?

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

And they brought the Tabernacle unto Moses...

Make a start; the rest will follow

they strive. I strive and receive reward...

they strive. I strive and receive reward...

political arena regarding the Likud and the left. Especially in view of the advancing of the election date...

And they brought the Tabernacle unto Moses...

Make a start; the rest will follow

they strive. I strive and receive reward...

they strive. I strive and receive reward...

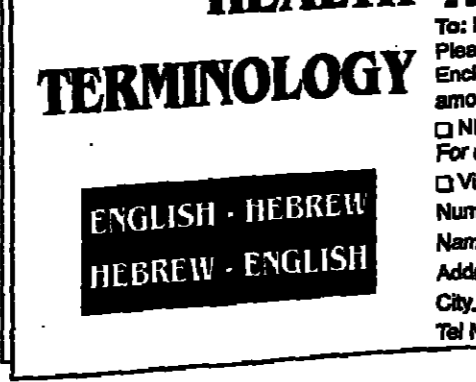
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Even our good friend Bill Clinton equated Yitzhak Rabin's murderer, Yigal Amir, with the Arab terrorists...

Helping needy youngsters is no less important, now or the rest of the year. Directors of community centers in distressed neighborhoods are trying to organize day camps during the Pessah vacation...

Progress Totals: NIS 638.12, NIS 20,437.76, NIS 15,701.69. WELCOME HOME FUND: NIS 235 Anon, J'm.

Friday, March 15, 1996
for all
GRANOVETTER

מקראות לתשס"ו

Frankly, my dear, Atlanta is well worth a visit

TOM GROSS

ATLANTA is billing itself as "The Next Great International City." It is already home to companies with worldwide impact, such as CNN and Coca-Cola; its airport is now the world's third busiest; final preparations for this summer's huge centenary Olympics are well underway; and, perhaps inspired by Scarlett O'Hara from *Gone with the Wind*, singer Madonna announced she may be moving there.

If so, she will join a host of other celebrities, such as Elton John and Whitney Houston, who have already made the city their principal or second home.

And to cap it all, a major new Jewish museum will open soon. Frankly, my dears, Atlanta is well worth a visit.

The dynamism projected by Atlanta's sleek, glass skyscrapers is combined with a leisurely spirit generated by the majestic columns, neatly-trimmed lawns and exquisitely laid-out flower beds of its big plantation-type houses.

City refinement blends with Southern graciousness and hospitality, and while it is perhaps not worth specially visiting from Israel (unless, of course, you can make it to the Olympics), a two- or three-day stopover in this happening and rather charming city is well worthwhile if you are going to be in the States anyway.

To see the city, hiring a car is a must, since Atlanta is spread over a large geographical area, linked by freeways of up to six lanes in each direction, some with distinctly local names such as Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Bobby Brown Boulevard.

Completely reconstructed after it was razed to the ground by General Sherman's forces during the Civil War in 1865, Atlanta has long been a bustling commercial center. But it is also a very pretty city.

There is a stunning variety of skyscrapers, many the work of John Portman, the outstanding and innovative modern architect who almost single-handedly redesigned the Atlanta skyline. The freeways are lined with tall green pine and oak trees towering into the sky, and the city itself is clean, neat and very green, especially in spring, when the many flowers that dot the city bloom into life.

Atlanta's beautiful year-round warm weather adds to the feeling of gentility, which is reflected in the tendency to name things in



When tall trees are not lining the Atlanta sidewalks, equally high elevated shop signs do, catering to just about every taste, from 'Virtual world' (for computers) to 'Condom sense' (an adult shop).

Atlanta after the peach, Georgia's state symbol, though locals say that you never actually see a peach tree in the city.

There's a Peachtree center, street, road, circle, fountain, plaza, bowl, and the peach even forms the "o" in Georgia car license plates, except for the newest models, on which the peach has been enterprisingly replaced by the Olympic flame.

While in the city, a visit to an all-American diner like the Waffle House - a genuine Southern institution, open 24 hours, and unfaillly nicknamed "The Aahfull Wahfull" on *Saturday Night Live* - is an experience not to be missed.

AS YOU ENTER, it's hard to avoid movie scenes zipping across your mind such as the hold-up in *Pulp Fiction* and the fake orgasm in *When Harry Met Sally*, and inter-

acting with the waiting staff is an integral part of the dining experience.

Old-fashioned Southern good manners are much in evidence, and addressing the waitress as "Ma'am" is near compulsory.

Trying to adapt as well as pos-

sible to the local culture, I plucked up courage and said: "Ma'am, I'll have hash browns, topped and chunked, scattered and diced." My waitress complimented me in return. "You got it down pat," she said, and later bade me farewell with a cheery "See ya soon, y'all."

BESIDES the Jewish Heritage Museum, there are plenty of other places worth visiting. The Atlanta History Center houses interesting permanent exhibitions detailing the local past, from the Indian set-

tlements and cotton fields to civil rights and CNN.

And you can see the inner workings of the world's newest superpower by taking a CNN studio tour (every 15 minutes daily, but with limited numbers, so it's advisable to book ahead, phone 404-827-2300).

You can peer down into the newsroom while the station is on air and observe the technical and production wizards at work as they broadcast "to their viewers around the world." If you're there around lunchtime, you may get to appear as part of the audience on *Talkback Live*, filmed in the CNN building shopping concourse.

You can also tour the governor's mansion, a grand old house built in the Greek Revival Style (in the 1920s, but it looks older), and learn about the histo-

Episodes from Jewish history

THIS June, a new Jewish Heritage Museum opens in Atlanta at the Sethi Center, 1440 Spring Street (Tel: 404-873-1661). It will house an extensive exhibition entitled "The Jews of Atlanta: From 1845 to the Present".

The exhibition, previously on show at the Atlanta History Center, is informative, interesting and colorfully presented. Besides exploring the community's considerable achievements in the city's arts and business life, it also details two of Atlanta's grimmer episodes, the pogrom lynching of Leo Frank in 1915 after a Christian girl went missing (Frank was posthumously pardoned in 1956), and the bombing of an Atlanta Synagogue in 1958, after a rabbi had campaigned in support of black civil rights.

Also of particular interest is the interactive exhibition at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Center, which includes Georgia's first handwritten letter to Menachem Begin and Arthur Schlesinger during the Camp David peace negotiations.

Airlines in Britain worried by violent passengers

THE four British passengers started attacking each other shortly after their holiday flight took off from Morocco. Soon they were locked in a vicious brawl which sent waves of panic through the aircraft.

But when the Royal Air Maroc jet eventually landed in Manchester the combatants were allowed to walk free.

"The fight was very distressing for everyone on board, but we had to let the four go. The airline couldn't believe it, nor could the passengers," said Kevin Hart, a senior police officer at Manchester airport.

A loophole in British law means authorities cannot prosecute those who commit offences on board foreign-registered aircraft, short of kidnapping or murder.

Hart, who is also chairman of the Association of UK Airport Police Commanders, is worried about officers' inability to act at a time when airlines around the world are reporting a growing number of violent in-flight incidents.

Major foreign airlines operating in Britain are so fed up at seeing troublemakers walk free that they have banded together to try to push a bill closing the loophole through parliament.

Peter North, chief executive for the Board of Airline Representatives UK, says something must be done before a violent

passenger causes a plane to crash. "In one sense we've been lucky. No one has opened an emergency exit at 30,000 feet and downed an aircraft," he said.

Airlines have traditionally been unwilling to publicize violent incidents for fear of deterring potential passengers but unofficial evidence suggests the number of cases is climbing.

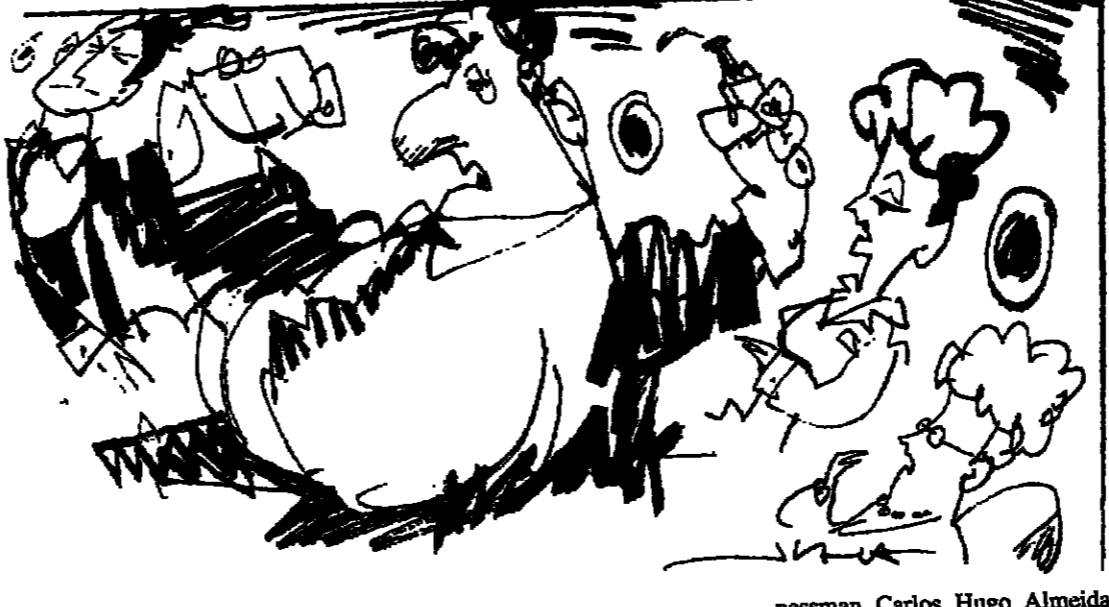
Qantas security manager Reginald Brothers, one of the prime movers behind the private bill, said he was spurred into action after a British man assaulted one of the airline's stewards on a flight in 1993, breaking a cheekbone and several teeth.

The airline pursued the case for two years through the civil courts before giving up.

"The cases will continue and we should be in a position to pursue complaints in a criminal court even if we only get one a year," Brothers said.

The foreign airlines say Britain should have taken advantage of a 1967 convention signed in Tokyo by most of the world's major nations which paved the way for signatories to introduce tough laws to clamp down on extra-territorial offences.

A British Home Office spokesman said airlines' representations were being considered as part of an internal review on the question of jurisdiction. An initial report is expected in the next few



months. "The Tokyo convention permits us to introduce jurisdiction, but doesn't oblige us to," he said.

Airline officials say alcohol is to blame for most of the problems but say that in an era of cut-throat competition it would be commercial suicide to cut back on serving drinks.

"Airlines customers require the airline to provide drink as part of the service. That same customer requires a restaurant in any part of the world to do the same," said

Brothers. Hart fears the potential for trouble will be especially high in the run-up to the European soccer championships, due to be held in England from June 8-30, which will attract thousands of supporters from 14 countries.

"All the fans are coming to Britain and we can't do anything about the incidents which take place on foreign airlines," he said.

British law does cover offences carried out on board British-registered planes, as Uruguayan busi-

nessman Carlos Hugo Almeida-Gutierrez discovered to his cost last year.

He was jailed for 14 days after indecently harassing three passengers on board a British Airways jet and then drunkenly trying to throttle a steward.

Last year Britannia Airways, Britain's leading charter airline, successfully sued a passenger for the equivalent of NIS 80,000 after he forced a jet to make an emergency landing during a fight with his girlfriend.

But Britain is still out of step with the United States, Canada and Australia, all of which have laws allowing the prosecution of all in-flight offenders - some of whom will live forever in the annals of the bizarre.

US investment banker Gerard Finerman agreed to pay \$49,000 to United Airlines in February after assaulting a flight attendant and then defecating on a service trolley before using linen towels as toilet paper.

Last year a group of 18 British and Irish tourists were detained and then expelled after running amok aboard a Northwest Airlines flight from London to the US, attacking other passengers and hurling food at crew members.

Three US wrestlers had to help quell the troublemakers, who had sent their children to steal bottles of alcohol from service trolleys after being denied more drinks by the crew. (Reuter)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1996

17

Foreign debt falls as share of GDP

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL'S foreign debt in 1995 was \$19.8 billion, or 22 percent of Gross Domestic Product, a nominal increase of 1.7% in comparison with the previous year, but a decline of 3% in terms of its share of the GDP, according to the Bank of Israel's foreign exchange department's annual report.

The foreign debt decline as a share of the GDP, despite the lack of sharp fluctuations in the shekel's exchange rate, reflects the economy's real growth.

As for the debt's nominal growth, executives in the central bank attributed it to increased net liabilities of the non-financial private sector, whose commercial credit expanded last year by \$1.2b. and totaled \$6.5b.

Loans taken by other borrowers, primarily the government, grew last year by \$800m., most of which was raised in US capital markets, where \$500m. was raised with US loan guarantees and \$250m. in the debt markets.

As of the end of 1995, the state had borrowed \$4.9b. backed by US guarantees. That leaves another \$5.1b. in the guarantee framework, which was sanctioned by the Bush administration shortly after Rabin rose to power in 1992.

Supplementary kibbutz debt deal ready for signing

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE kibbutzim, the banks, and the Treasury plan to sign the supplementary arrangement for kibbutz debt on Tuesday, following decisions by the United Kibbutz Movement and Hakibbutz Ha'arzi to support a draft agreement which was hammered out this week.

The large banks and kibbutzim's negotiating committees have agreed on most of the issues which prevented the signing of the agreement, in which the government and the banks have pledged significant amounts to erase additional kibbutz debts, which in recent years have threatened some kibbutzim with insolvency.

Sources close to the negotiations said several last-minute technical problems remain, but in all likelihood will be worked out by Sunday.

The UKM emphasized that approval of the debt arrangement plan is supported by its secretariat and management, but remains subject to the approval of move-

after they sign the deal. The proposed arrangement does not place any conditions on the number of kibbutzim that will take part in the arrangement. The banks forecast about 75 percent of the kibbutzim will join during the next few months.

According to the UKM, outlying kibbutzim, which have accumulated the highest debts, are expected to be the first to sign the arrangement.

Sources close to the sale of Bank Hapoalim, said the signing of the agreement is expected to push forward its sale to the Claridge-Arisson group. MI Holdings, the government company in charge of the sale, and the Claridge-Arisson consortium has negotiated the purchase of a controlling share in the bank over the last few months. But, the delay in signing the debt arrangement has prevented the buyers from evaluating the financial effect of the arrangement on Hapoalim. Bank Hapoalim's share in the kibbutz debt is estimated at 60%.

WORLD BRIEFS

Danish toymaker wants more Legoland: Danish toy giant Lego said yesterday it would like to build versions of its Legoland theme park throughout the world, but contrary to media reports said it had no firm plans beyond two already announced. "The British park at Windsor will open on March 29 and a second park is due to open in San Diego, California in 1999. Beyond that we have hopes but no plans," a spokeswoman said. *Reuters*

Daewoo to invest \$80m. in Warsaw plant: Daewoo will invest \$80 million this year in its newly founded joint-venture Daewoo FSO Motor Ltd, that will assemble up to 40,000 compact and subcompact cars this year, a deputy industry minister said. "The company will manufacture between 30,000 and 40,000 Tico and Espero cars at its Warsaw plant this year with Daewoo investing in the same time about \$80 million," Deputy Industry Minister Tadeusz Soroka said. Daewoo made a commitment to invest a total of \$1,121b. in the following seven years, he added. *Reuters*

Readers Digest cuts 100 jobs: Reader's Digest said yesterday it will cut 100 jobs at its Westchester County, NY headquarters as part of a downsizing announced in late January. The layoffs will affect editors, researchers, assistants, supervisors, secretaries and others, director of public relations Craig Lowder said. The cuts at the company's headquarters in Pleasantville, NY, are part of 1,000 worldwide layoffs announced earlier this year. *Reuters*

Demirel visits IAI

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TURKISH President Suleyman Demirel visited the Israel Aircraft Industries yesterday to demonstrate his support for the relationship that has been blossoming between both countries' aircraft industries since the summer. In August, the Turkish Ministry of Defense and IAI signed a \$600 million, five-year agreement for IAI to upgrade 54 Turkish Phantoms based on the IAF's Phantom 2000 combat aircraft. During the first-ever visit of a Turkish president to IAI, Demirel said he hopes this agreement is just the beginning of joint projects between the two countries. Highlighting the changes in the political atmosphere in the region, Demirel said the agreement signals a new stage in the relationship between Turkey and Israel.

Vote on IEC request delayed

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee postponed a vote yesterday on the Israel Electric Corporation's request for NIS 1.6 billion in state guarantees, saying it first wanted more information about the company's financial plans.

The IEC asked for the guarantees, because it cannot get any more loans from local banks without them, due to restrictions on how much they are allowed to lend to a single borrower.

In total, the company plans investments of some NIS 3.9 billion this year, of which NIS 550 million will be borrowed from foreign banks and NIS 1.75 billion will be raised via bond issues. The remaining NIS 1.6b. is slated to be borrowed from Israeli banks.

Polgat suffers NIS 18m. annual loss

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and RACHEL NEIMAN

POLGAT, a subsidiary of Clal Israel, completed 1995 with a net loss of NIS 18.4 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 23.7m. in 1994.

The loss was mainly due to the closer of the Ouman knitwear factory in Ofakim in December, after many years of successive losses. The closing of the factory led to a one-time loss of NIS 15.6m., which increased the

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and RACHEL NEIMAN

company's fourth-quarter losses to NIS 20.4m. Polgat said it is negotiating to sell its property and rights in Ouman to Macpell Industries. The transaction is subject to the approval of the Investment Center

at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In the reported period, sales increased to NIS 564.3m. compared with NIS 537.2m., up 5 percent. The growth was primarily due to higher sales on the domestic market.

Cost of sales grew to NIS 435.6m. from NIS 394.9m. Management said the rise reflects the company's attempts to increase its share of local and international markets, including its entrance into France.

Financing expenses increased to NIS 13.8m. compared with NIS 10.2m. last year.

• Macteshim has announced that net profits last year rose 19.5 percent over 1994, from NIS 64.9 million to NIS 77.6m. Consolidated annual revenues were NIS 1.4b., up from NIS 1.22b. Earnings per share were NIS 1.34, up from NIS 1.13.

Fourth quarter net profits fell to NIS 842,000 from NIS 3.4m. in 1994. Quarterly revenues were NIS 91.7m., down from NIS 92.6m.

The company reported annual revenue of NIS 683.22m. from NIS 616m.

Exports to North America made up 28% of the Macteshim group's total annual sales; Europe made up 39%, Latin America 19%, the Far East 9%, and Africa and Australia 5%.

General manager Shlomo Unis said the growth in annual sales had contributed to increased sales costs of NIS 189m. from NIS 154.9m.

He also cited external influences on profitability, including a rise in the dollar cost of raw materials and a rise in labor costs, resulting from a gap in the dollar exchange rate and CPI.

The Macteshim group consists of Agau Chemicals and subsidiaries abroad.

China attacks US for 'double standard' on wheat

BEIJING (Reuters) - China yesterday attacked the US Department of Agriculture's grain quarantine policy as hegemonic and said it revealed double standards in the import and export of fungus-infected wheat.

About 2.1 million tons of US wheat purchased by China, the world's biggest wheat importer, has yet to be shipped, because of a US outbreak of karnal bunt fungus.

The pending shipments are among \$120 million of US wheat exporters have been unable to ship abroad since discovery last week of infected wheat seeds, US officials said.

Officials of China's Foreign Trade Ministry, quoted by Xinhua news agency, said controversy over the stalled shipments revealed "double standards" in US policy toward China.

On December 20, the unidentified officials said, 23 members of Congress from five wheat-growing states lobbied Washington about concerns over karnal bunt in Mexican wheat.

"The US government decided as a result to postpone its importation of wheat from Mexico," the ministry said.

That case clashed, it said, with US policy toward China, which has long refused to accept shipments of US wheat tainted with the fungus TCK, or tillaria contraversa kuhu.

On December 12, the ministry

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1994

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(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

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German mark	2.0613	2.1149	2.04	2.15	2.1011
French franc	4.2681	4.2439	4.58	4.51	4.7118
Japanese yen (100)	0.0075	0.0173	0.58	0.58	0.6132
Dutch guilder	2.9577	2.9577	2.85	3.00	2.9777
Swiss franc	1.8554	1.8286	1.82	1.82	1.8778
British pound	4.6527	4.4801	4.44	4.47	4.4528
Norwegian krona	0.4771	0.4859	0.48	0.50	0.4829
Denmark krone	0.2587	0.2574	0.52	0.56	0.527
Finland mark	0.0871	0.0778	0.05	0.08	0.0720
Canadian dollar	2.2291	2.2753	2.20	2.31	2.2298
Australian dollar	2.9787	2.4192	2.53	2.45	2.3844
S. African rand	0.7825	0.7352	0.70	0.80	0.7888
Belgian franc (F)	1.0154	1.0288	0.98	1.05	1.0222
Australian dollar (10)	2.9807	3.0305	2.80	3.08	2.9373
Italian lire (1000)	1.9512	1.9827	1.91	2.02	1.9587
Jordanian dinar	---	---	4.27	4.58	4.4510
Egyptian pound	---	---	0.87	0.86	0.9717
ECU	3.9502	3.9123	---	---	3.9531
Irish punt	4.8148	4.8325	4.73	4.97	4.8621
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4785	2.5185	2.43	2.58	2.4955

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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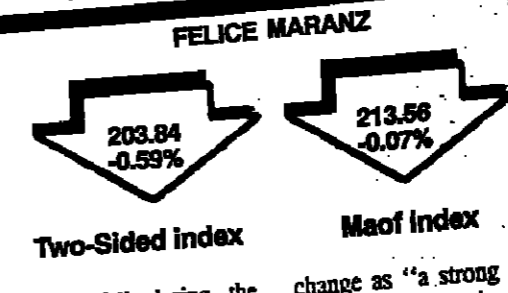
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Lower earnings push TASE down

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCK indexes fell during the week amid concern that company earnings reports will reveal lower than expected profits.

Yesterday, shares were little changed as investors waited for February's consumer price index, due to be released today.

The investment firm Salomon Brothers released a report appraising the Tel Aviv Stock Ex-

change as "a strong long-term investment opportunity."

UK shares end higher following NY's opening

LONDON - UK shares ended higher, lifted by a firmer start on Wall Street, steady bonds, up-beat corporate news and renewed bid speculation.

FRANKFURT - German shares close course trade practically unchanged, with trade in a tight range.

PARIS - French shares ended higher after a see-saw day on a firm Wall Street after fresh US data, traders said there had been little appetite to take fresh positions after recent volatility.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended firmer in active trade but slightly below the day's early highs.

Blue chips end higher, boosted by good news

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with double-digit gains yesterday as a drop in wholesale prices in February reassured Wall Street that inflation was still in check.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 17.34 points at 5,586.06 after late profit-taking sparked a retreat from a high of 5,629.77.

STOCK indexes fell during the week amid concern that company earnings reports will reveal lower than expected profits.

At that rate, the Bank of Israel is not expected to announce lower interest rates, Meir said.

The Maof Index fell 0.07% to 213.56 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.05% to 203.84.

Of 992 issues traded yesterday, three shares rose for every two that fell.

Other declining shares on the Maof Index included Koor, which fell 0.25% as NIS 6m. worth of shares changed hands.

"It seems Koor will have lower profits," Meir said.

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency and rate.

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table with columns for index name and change.

Other stock market indexes

Other stock market indexes table with columns for index name and change.

Israeli stocks in NY

Israeli stocks in NY table with columns for stock name and change.

NEW MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crosses rates table with columns for currency and rate.

Libor rates

Libor rates table with columns for rate type and value.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Foreign financial data table with columns for country and value.

NEW COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities table with columns for commodity and price.

London commodities table with columns for commodity and price.

Spot market metals table with columns for metal and price.

New York metal futures table with columns for metal and price.

London metal futures table with columns for metal and price.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stocks table with columns for company name, price, and change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices with columns for company name, price, and change.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table with columns for currency and rate.

Large vertical advertisement for LOME LOVERSEA and other services, including 'Solidarity', 'Integrity', and 'And value for money'.

earnings
DOWN
STOCK MARKET

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BAKA, PENTHOUSE, 6, furnished, 1 year, 3 gardens, short. CORBINNE DAVAR Tel: 02-735355.

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HAIFA CHRISTIAN
BEIT ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL) Messianic Congregation Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-525581.
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KING OF KINGS ASSEMBLY YMCA Auditorium, 28 King David St., Sunday 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tel. 02-610-017.
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JER. CHRISTIAN
REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Marlston Rd. Old City Jerusalem, Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 0276111,261049.
SHALHEVETAYAH CONGREGATION, 25 Sederot Yisrael st. (Finnish School), Tel. 02-241853. Saturday services at 7 p.m. Service in Finnish first Saturday of each month at 4 p.m.
JERUSALEM
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.
MOESESHE YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, Fr. Minya 630 Sederot Yisrael St. Minya 5:40 p.m. Daily at 7:00 a.m.
TEL AVIV
BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 9 km. north of Petah Tiava, near Yarkon Junction, Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 03-674581
IMmanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yatso, 15 Beer Hofman near 17 Elat Street, Tel. 03-6200554 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

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WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.
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Upper Nazareth: Cial Pharm, Lev Ha' Ma'ar, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
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Friday, March 15
 Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Sheara Zadek (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Blkur Hofim (obstetrics, ENT).
 Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, Internal), Ichilov (surgery).
 Netanya: Larindo.
Saturday, March 16
 Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (Internal, orthopedics); Sheara Zadek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Blkur Hofim (pediatrics, ENT).
 Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (Internal, surgery).
 Netanya: Larindo.
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FIRE 102
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Kiryat area: Superpharm, Hativory, 44 Hahabon, Kiryat Salk, 877-9320.
Haifa: Kiryat Eizier, 6 Mayerhoff St., 651-1707.
Ashdod 951333 Kir-Sava 902222
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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
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 Tel Aviv: Ahva, 165 Dizengoff, 522-4717; Alosoroff, 76 Arlosoroff, 523-0748.
 Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Shoel, 78 Ahuzat, Ra'anana, 981068.
 Netanya: Hanassi, 38 Weizmann, 823388.
 Krayot area: Haman, 4 Simat Mod'im, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770.
 Haifa: Balfour, 1 Massada, 862-2289.
 Herzliya: Cial Pharm, Beit Marzikon, 8 Miskaf (for Sederot Hapsim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
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 Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Hader, 12 Hahabin, Hod Hasharon, 401435; (evening) Doron, 9 Geula, Ra'anana, 771-6909.
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 Krayot area: Superpharm, Hativory, 44 Hahabon, Kiryat Salk, 877-9320.
 Haifa: Kiryat Eizier, 6 Mayerhoff St., 651-1707.
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Thousands riot at Cyprus priest's trial

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Thousands of stone-throwing demonstrators fought pitched battles with Cypriot police yesterday outside the archbishop's palace in Nicosia during a synod trial of a priest suspended on immorality charges.

More than 70 people were injured as police in riot gear fired tear gas to stop about 3,000 supporters of Archbishop Pangerios Meraclis from approaching the palace, which had been cordoned off with barbed wire.

A hospital spokeswoman said 74 people - civilians and police - had been brought in for treatment. Most were suffering from burning eyes from the tear gas, but some had head injuries from stones. Six were kept in for further treatment.

Eight demonstrators, four of them high-school students, were arrested.

Police said security has been tightened around Archbishop Chrysostomos of the Greek Orthodox Church after receiving anonymous tips that there were plans to harm him.

"Police received information of a threat against the Archbishop," deputy police chief Panicos Hadjilovizou said at a news con-

ference. "It was [an] anonymous [tip] but it is being investigated."

Chrysostomos, 69, has been strongly criticized by supporters of the suspended cleric, 39-year-old Meraclis, whom he has threatened to defrock if the charges of homosexuality against Meraclis are verified.

Inside the palace, the island's bishops convened a second meeting against Meraclis, whose supporters threaten a revolt in the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

The meeting ended without a verdict. Two of three witnesses originally expected to attend did not appear. A taxi driver and a massage parlor owner testified against Meraclis on Monday.

Meraclis, who was smuggled out of the palace through a back door at the end of the one-hour meeting, was handed a "charge sheet" to which he has five days to answer in writing, one of his supporters said.

He did not give details of the charges, but said the bishops would issue their verdict after they receive answers. The holy synod announced Meraclis did not admit to the charges.

Crowds waiting for Meraclis to emerge were furious when they

heard he had been taken out via a back exit.

Many of them pulled away the barbed wire separating them from police officers.

"These are the last days... they are listening to adulterers and sinners instead of a holy man," said Antigone Markidou, a Meraclis supporter. "Look at the way they are trying to control the crowd."

Demonstrators screamed abuse at Chrysostomos when he appeared at a window on the first floor of the palace.

"Tomis [nickname for the Archbishop] you are the Antichrist, an adulterer," they shouted.

In several instances, police wearing masks and helmets were seen throwing objects at demonstrators. Tear gas was fired into narrow one-way alleys from which the crowds could not escape.

Meraclis, who returned last week from self-exile in Greece, was elected by a large majority in the northwestern Morphou district to be his new bishop.

The government and the island's parliament, the House of Representatives, appealed for calm.

Russia attacks rebel base

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian troops and Chechen rebels exchanged mortar and automatic rifle fire in the center of the regional capital Grozny yesterday, and Russia launched air raids against a major separatist stronghold.

The clashes in Grozny took place as Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev visited the city to study the situation first-hand ahead of a meeting in the Kremlin today of the policy making Security Council.

The council, made up of top state and security officials, is due to consider a peace initiative which could be crucial for Presi-

dent Boris Yeltsin's chances of winning a June 16 presidential election.

Yeltsin is trailing Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov in opinion polls. The 15-month Chechnya conflict, in which more than 25,000 people have been killed, is widely regarded as his greatest handicap in the election race.

Interfax news agency, reporting from Grozny, said rebels were continuing to resist Russian interior ministry troops and pro-Moscow Chechen militia.

"There has been some stabilization, but the situation in the

Chechen capital remains difficult," said Yuri Plugin, deputy interior minister of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration.

He told Interfax that snipers loyal to separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev remained active in Grozny more than a week after infiltrating the city and holding parts of it for up to four days.

Inter-Tass news agency said the rebels had opened fire on a Russian military checkpoint in Minutka Square from a nearby apartment block.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

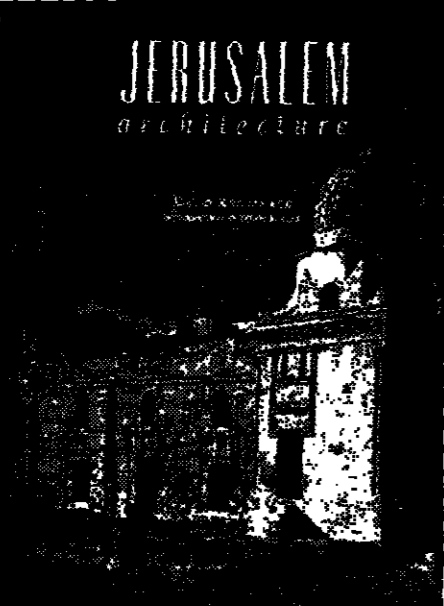
Two construction workers had

been killed by rebel fire in Minutka Square in the last 24 hours, Interfax said. Two Russian soldiers were killed in other incidents.

Minutka Square was the scene of fierce clashes between Russian troops and separatists in early 1995 when Moscow's troops captured Grozny, and again last week when the rebels launched their biggest counteroffensive since the war started.

The rebels mostly withdrew from Grozny over the weekend. Russia then turned its attention and its firepower on the western settlement of Bamut.

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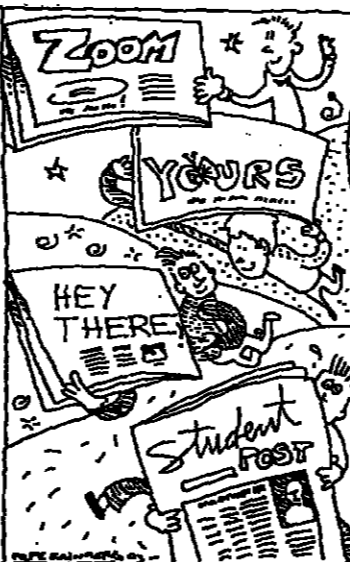
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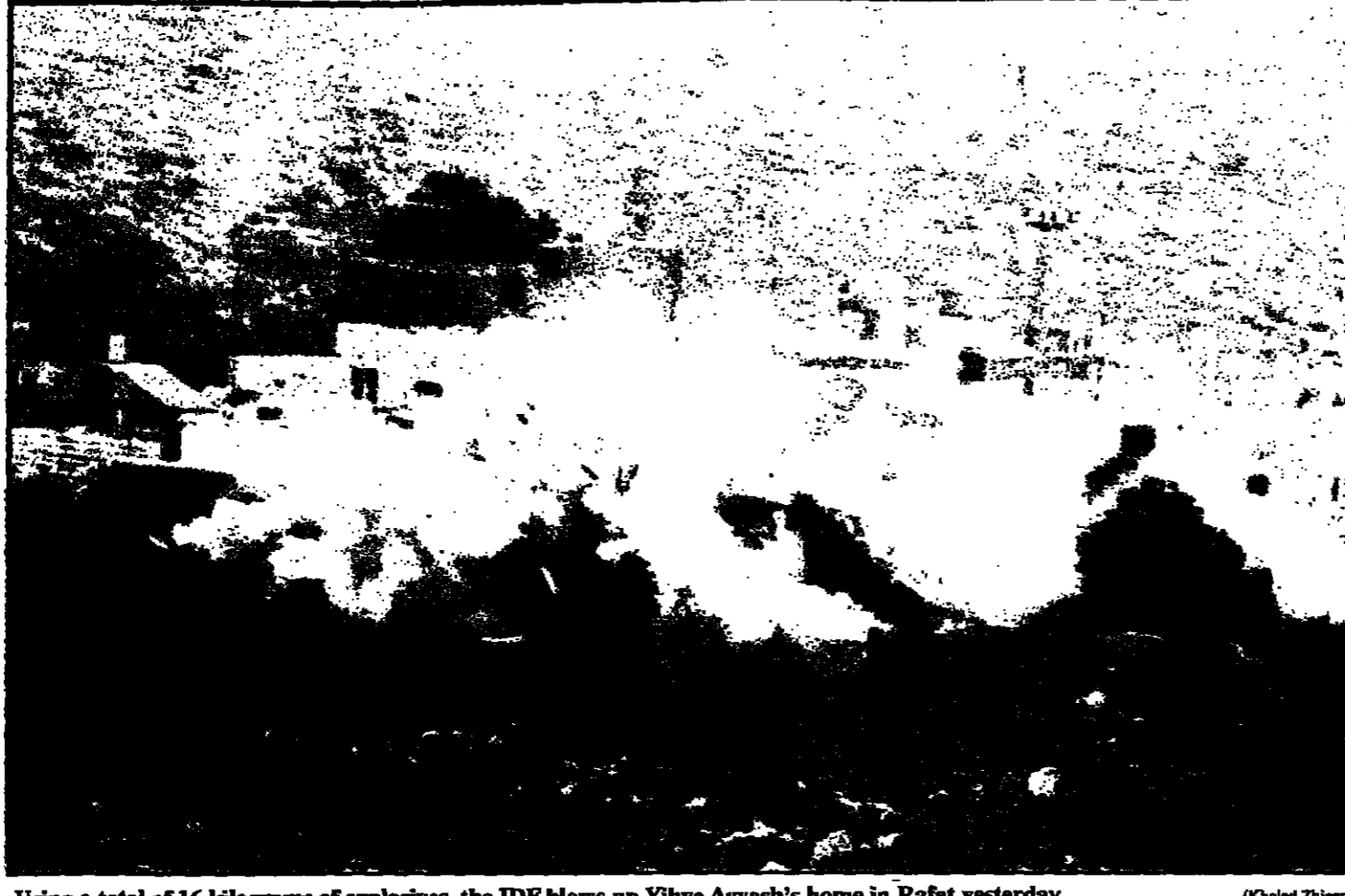
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IDF blows up Engineer's house

JON IMMANUEL
A FLASH, an explosion, and the house of Yihye ("The Engineer") Ayyash, the chemical engineering student who introduced Israel to the suicide bus bomber, came crashing down in a puff of smoke yesterday.
Ayyash's parents' nearby home was untouched by the carefully calibrated blast, which used 16 kilograms of explosives about the same amount used in the last bomb attacks carried out in his name.
A smaller blast of four kilograms completed the job, ensuring that the ruins would not pose a danger to neighbors. A dove in a nearby tree was killed by the first blast and lay bloodied in the ruins.
Col. Haim, the area commander who supervised the demolition, said nobody would be able to rebuild on the site without a permit from the civil administration.
The explosion was delayed to ensure that it caused no damage to neighboring homes. This precaution followed an explosion on Monday demolishing the Burka home of the March 3 Jerusalem bus bomber, a blast which damaged more than 20 homes and almost destroyed one.
The families are to receive compensation.
However, no thought was given to using a bulldozer instead.
"Blowing up a house has a greater psychological deterrent effect. When you feel the ground tremble under your feet you think



Using a total of 16 kilograms of explosives, the IDF blows up Yihye Ayyash's home in Rafat yesterday.
about it a long time," a military source said.
Ayyash built his house next to his parents' home in the village of Rafat, close to the Samaritan bloc of settlements. He lived in it with his wife and child before fleeing from Israeli troops.
He was a fugitive for three years, during which he fired on military patrols, set roadside bombs, and achieved notoriety by making the bombs used in attacks, beginning with the one in Afula in March 1994. He is also responsible for those used in the Hadera and Tel Aviv explosions later that year, which killed more than 30.
Ayyash was killed in Gaza on January 5 by a remote-controlled bomb concealed in a mobile phone. The death of The Engineer, who was also famous for his skill at evading the IDF, caused an outpouring of anger and grief among Palestinians. It was one of the reasons given for the four bombings between February 25 and March 4, which killed 58.
The deterrent created by demolishing Ayyash's house may be limited, as he long ago passed on his sinister craft to successors, who call themselves "the disciples of Yihye Ayyash."
Rafat village, close to settlements and the Green Line, nestles in a landscape of low green hills, a far cry from the Gaza refugee camps, where Hamas ideology first flourished.
Haim said Rafat is "a moderate village with no special leaning to Hamas. Ayyash was an exception."
Today his picture is displayed at many houses in the village. Slogans praising Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's armed wing, are on the walls.
"That started only after he was killed," Haim said.
Villagers were placed under curfew for several hours, but there was little protest beforehand.
"They expected it," he said.
House demolitions, derived from pre-state British emergency regulations, were reinstated last week as part of the government's anti-terrorism offensive. They had been abandoned when the peace process began.
There was no connection between the decision to destroy the house and US President Bill Clinton's visit yesterday. The demolition crew had simply been awaiting a High Court ruling, Haim said.

WEATHER

City	Temp
Haifa	13-21
Tiberias	12-22
Afula	9-22
Samarin	9-17
Tel Aviv	12-21
Jerusalem	10-17
Beer Sheva	13-25
Dead Sea	17-27
Eilat	17-27

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and thought you're going to be crushed under your feet you think about it a long time," a military source said.
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Egged chairman freed on bail in bribery scam

RAINE MARCUS
EGGED chairman Shlomo Levine, who was arrested on Wednesday in connection with a massive bribe scam, was released on NIS 250,000 bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge George Kara.
Shlomo Amar, Egged's chairman from 1980 to 1984, whom police said also played a part in the scam which involved receiving bribes from the Mercedes importer in return for buying buses from the company, was also released for the same amount of bail.
Both were barred from leaving the country.
On Wednesday, Yisrael Stockman, managing director of Karmobil, which imports Mercedes, and former senior Egged official Eli Yaffe were also released on bail by Kara, after he slammed police for launching the investigation four years after they were told about the scam by Yaffe.
Levine and Amar are suspected, together with other Egged senior officials, of receiving millions of shekels in bribes. Police said the money was deposited in Swiss bank accounts. The transactions, involving hundreds of Mercedes buses, were allegedly conducted

Fund manager under house arrest

TEL Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday freed Shimon Zisser, 46, managing director of Eurotrade, a portfolio management firm, who is suspected of fraudulent stock trading, bribery and breach of trust, on NIS 300,000 bail. He was also ordered held under house arrest for eight days.
Zisser, while in his previous position as deputy managing director of Emda, Bank Mizrahi's portfolio management firm, is suspected of opening numerous bank accounts in the names of friends and relatives and using them to play the stock market. However, as an officer of a company which is a member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, he was forbidden to do so.
He is also suspected of using insider information to enrich himself by coordinating his personal market activity with that of his company.
Securities and Exchange Authority official Reuven Kovnat told the court that a partial investigation has so far revealed some 50 bank accounts which Zisser operated under other names. In more than 20 cases, stocks held by those accounts were sold, then bought by Emda. This kept the price from dropping, as would have been the case had Emda sold the shares. (Iim)

General strike set for Sunday over new pension plan

A 24-HOUR general strike has been called for Sunday in response to the government's new pension plan, which the unions' action committee charges will harm the pension benefits of veteran workers.
Among other sanctions if the strike takes place, the Airports Authority announced there will be no takeoffs or landings at the country's airports (except for emergencies) and high school teachers will not report for work.
Severe disruptions in public transportation are expected as Egged's 4,000 hired workers, approximately half of its work force, will also strike.
At a meeting yesterday, the unions concluded that the Treasury has no intention of changing plans to reduce pension benefits for some 600,000 workers and decided to go forward with Sunday's strike.
However, union and Treasury representatives are to meet again today at the Treasury to continue negotiations. Union representatives are to meet again on Monday to decide upon further steps.
TAAS-Israel Industries, Israel Aircraft Industries, Zim, and the Dead Sea Works will be on total strike; the Nuclear Research Center, the Weizmann Institute, Haifa Chemicals, and Israel Oil Refineries will be on partial strike. There will be no fuel deliveries.
Bezeq will not install new phone lines or make repairs. (Iim)

American student held on suspicion of murder

Irwin Johnson, 25, an American student at Haifa University suspected of murdering another student, Ganit Trizman, 22, in his apartment, was remanded yesterday for 10 days by Haifa Magistrate's Court. The suspect did not appear in court until yesterday, as he was in Rambam Hospital recovering from an apparent suicide attempt. His lawyer said his client denies the murder, claiming that Trizman died in a tragic accident. (Iim)

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Weather
Amsterdam	9-12	clear
Batavia	18-25	clear
Beijing	15-22	cloudy
Bombay	18-25	cloudy
Brussels	10-15	cloudy
Cairo	18-25	clear
Canton	18-25	clear
Chongqing	18-25	clear
Colon	18-25	clear
Hankow	18-25	clear
Hong Kong	18-25	clear
Kobe	18-25	clear
London	10-15	cloudy
Manila	18-25	clear
Peking	18-25	clear
Shanghai	18-25	clear
Shenzhen	18-25	clear
Taipei	18-25	clear
Tientsin	18-25	clear
Yokohama	18-25	clear

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